



# the Scottish Banner



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 44 Number 4 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper October 2020

## Ghostly stories for Halloween

» Pg 4

## The lost Chief of Clan Buchanan

» Pg 12



Graveyard Garrisons-Scottish mortsafes..... » Pg 8  
Four monstrous tales from Scottish history ..... » Pg 10  
Hit the road with the sounds of Scotland ..... » Pg 24

## Over the sea to Skye

» Pg 23



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Distributed monthly in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. ISSN 2209-8364

**Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806**

Published monthly by Scottish Banner Publications  
PO Box 6220, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204, Australia

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The Banner Says...

# A Scottish witch hunt



by Sean Cairney

**A**s nature bursts with colour across Scotland, and North America, many this month are fortunate to witness autumnal foliage as colours burst into landscapes. Colours start changing in September and natures show can last through November, but October really is the month that the bursts of red, yellow and orange takes hold.

October of course finishes with the excitement for many kids at Halloween. What that will look like due to Covid-19 I am not sure as countries across the world grapple with social distancing. Scotland's First Minister has indicated she does not want to stop the joy of trick-or-treating for children, but that she also would be taking steps to keep kids and their families safe from coronavirus infections.

The streets may have a rise in the number of witch sightings this Halloween but did you know Scotland historically was one of Europe's biggest prosecutors of witches? During nationwide witch hunts in Scotland during the 1600s it is estimated of up to 4,000 people were tried and thousands of women were executed for being declared a witch. Scotland had a quarter of the population that England had, yet three times the amount of prosecutions, with Edinburgh being the 'witch capital' of not only Scotland, but the world.

**Fate already decided**

Visitors can pay their respects to the accused women at the Witches Well located on the Royal Mile where more than 300 women were burned at the stake between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. As with most witch trials, these women were denied a fair trial, often with confessions made by torture, and their fate had already been decided for them.



The consequences were horrible and varied from drowning, strangulation, to being burned at the stake. The Witches Well is a bronze plaque that was placed in 1894 and features witches' heads entwined by a snake, there are also other locations around the Scottish capital with a gruesome history, but the witch hunt also took place right across Scotland.

In Fife the North Berwick Witch Trials were a huge event and ran for two years and implicated nearly 100 local women, they were also said to have given Shakespeare inspiration for *Macbeth*. Also, in the beautiful Fife town of Culross women were imprisoned and tortured and, if lucky, were branded for life with an S for sinner or had their ears nailed to the town stocks

In Aberdeen during the 1500s, St. Mary's Chapel at Kirk of Saint Nicholas was a witches' prison where the accused were chained before being executed and burned. As a form of punishment, some unlucky accused were rolled down a hill in a spiked barrel and if still alive were set alight.

In Glasgow's stately Pollok House, five locals known as the 'witches of Pollok' were accused of being companions with the devil and sent to be burned at the stake. The accuser was Janet Douglas, a mute servant who became ill and later regained the power of speech and immediately accused five local people of consorting with the devil. Rumour has it that Ms Douglas later moved to America and was involved with the Salem witch trials of 1692.

Thankfully by the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century most places in Europe stopped prosecuting witches. Interestingly however the last successful prosecution under the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Witchcraft Act in Britain was in the 1940s. After that, all the Witchcraft Acts were repealed so it was no longer a crime.

**In this issue**

We do certainly have some spooky content in this issue as a nod to Halloween, or the Celtic festival of Samhain. From the Gorbals Vampire in Glasgow, or the ghost of Craigmillar Castle, to the ancient Celtic origins of Halloween. What we celebrate today may be different to our ancestors, but it certainly is fascinating to know the roots of this custom. Also, the great folklore of tales to do with brutal histories, ghostly encounters and for some Glasgow kids just making sure you can keep away from the 'bogey man'.

Another creepy thing is mortsafes, which protected the dead from opportunistic body snatchers. In 18<sup>th</sup> century Scotland, there was a large demand for human cadavers for medical students to use in their studies and grave robbing became big business.

Iron mortsafe's would be fastened around a coffin to protect it from would be thieves and would remain until the corpse had decomposed enough, and would no longer be sellable.

People power certainly, eventually, prevailed when the sky(e) high tolls were abolished at the Isle of Skye. The Skye bridge between the island and the mainland opened twenty-five years ago this month in October 1995. It took a great deal of local push back and nearly a decade to remove, until the Scottish Government bought the bridge for £27m and cancelled the toll, and is still today a free road for all.

The Clan Buchanan celebrated their first chief in nearly 350 years back in 2018. This month we speak to one of Scotland's newest chiefs, The Buchanan, on the long road to proving his claim as head of Buchanan's and how he is navigating being a modern chief in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Remembering Valerie Cairney**

Thank you to all the wonderful readers and friends from around the world who have reached out in regard to the recent passing of Val Cairney, the founder, and four-decade editor and publisher of *the Scottish Banner*. My mother certainly touched many people over the years and that has been apparent with the many kind messages, calls, emails, cards and letters that have been received.

It certainly has made a terrible time somewhat easier and myself and my family thank the many who have let us know how special Val was to them. We have dedicated our letters page this month to just some of the messages we have received from so many, from all parts of the Scottish community and the world. Val would be thrilled to see she touched so many, and so am I, and I know she will not be forgotten. 🍂

**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](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us) #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner**

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Gracing our front cover: John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan, chief of the Clan Buchanan.

# Scotland's National Book Town sends an invitation to the world

The annual Wigtown Book Festival is one of the best-loved events in the cultural calendar – this year it's online, so everyone can take part. Scotland's National Book Town is inviting the world to take part in the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Wigtown Book Festival – one of the country's most colourful and entertaining cultural events. Much of the character and economy of this pretty, historic coastal town of less than 1,000 residents is built on books.

## Scotland's literary heartland

Each autumn the marquees go up as the community welcomes a multitude of visitors, authors, poets, illustrators,

celebrities, political figures, scientists, historians, journalists and others to its 10-day festival. This year the Covid-19 pandemic prompted the organisers to shift the event online, a move they hope will allow introduce people around the planet to all that the festival, the town and south-west Scotland have to offer.

Adrian Turpin, the festival's artistic director, said: "This is a town like no other, with a festival like no other that takes place in Scotland's literary heartland – and going online allows us to invite the whole world to join us. There will be famous names, fabulous books and plenty of the off-beat, quirky fun that give Wigtown and its festival a charm and character all of their own. And while we are all disappointed that it won't be possible this autumn, we hope that people who discover us digitally might be tempted to come here in person in 2021 or beyond."

## Dumfries & Galloway

There's a lot that marks out Wigtown, its people, and the Dumfries & Galloway region as being special. Since being declared Scotland's National Book Town in 1998 Wigtown has become home to 18 book shops and book related businesses. Among these is the world-famous Open Book – which visitors rent through Airbnb so they can enjoy a holiday running their own bookshop while staying in the cosy self-contained flat above the store.



Residents include Shaun Bythell, owner of Scotland's largest second-hand bookshop and best-selling author of *Diary of a Bookseller* and *Confessions of a Bookseller*.

The nearby saltmarshes and Solway Firth are home to an amazing variety of wildlife, and each year welcome huge flocks of barnacle geese and the whooper swans that migrate there from Iceland. On the edge of the town is the reputedly haunted Baldoon Castle, where the terrible events took place which inspired Sir Walter Scott's novel,

*The Bride of Lammermoor* and 1835 Donizetti opera *Lucia di Lammermoor*. The region is also closely associated with the lives and works of many other greats such as Robert Burns, Dorothy L Sayers, John Buchan, JM Barrie and SR Crockett.

**Wigtown Book Festival runs to October 4<sup>th</sup> and is already running a whole series of online events. These include a monthly Book Club, podcasts, discussions, movie nights and even a literary pub quiz. See [www.wigtownbookfestival.com](http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com)**



# Tartan of the Month

*Nursing Now - Edinburgh  
Nursing Studies Tartan*

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

This tartan (SRT Reference: 12548) design was inspired by the national uniform for nurses in Scotland. These colours are worn by every nurse, healthcare assistant and student nurse in Scotland. This tartan is intended to be used as a symbol of identity, kinship and solidarity for nurses. This tartan was designed by Elaine Marshall, Kate Chandler & Georgia Duffy, and registered in July 2019. The Scottish Banner thanks nurses across the world for the incredible work they do.

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# Three ghostly stories for Halloween

**A 1930s haunting in Edinburgh, a chilling castle curse and a terrifying ordeal in a Highland church – Historic Environment Scotland shares Halloween journeys into Scotland's supernatural past with three gripping, ghostly tales.**

Text and images courtesy of: Historic Environment Scotland



Craigmillar Castle, close to Niddrie Mains.

The nights are closing in, the clocks have gone back and there's a spooky feeling in the air: Halloween is upon us once again. So gather round the fireside (or take shelter under the duvet) and join us for three supernatural journeys into Scottish history...

## Hunting the ghost of Craigmillar Castle

We'll begin our trio of terrifying tales in May 1935, in Niddrie Mains, Edinburgh. Located within the shadow of picturesque Craigmillar Castle, at the time it was one of Edinburgh's newest housing areas. But a curious report in *The Sunday Post* on May 5 revealed details of a much older resident – one that was steadfastly refusing to leave...

Under the headline "Edinburgh Ghost with Spurs" the *Post* carried the sensational details of a mysterious figure "seen gliding over the fields" near the castle. It was not the first time that the "supernatural visitant" had made an appearance in the neighbourhood. A year previously, the phantom had caused such a scare that vigilante ghost hunts were organised "in an effort to lay the uneasy spirit". The ghost managed to evade capture though, vanishing into the maze-like ruins of Craigmillar Castle whenever the Niddrie ghostbusters made their move.



Beaulieu Priory, John Gregorson Campbell's setting for "The Grey Paw".

The most recent sighting, reports the *Post*, had taken place on a side street leading from Peffermill Road to the castle. While there's little indication as to the possible identity of the ghost, the report provides plenty of details about its unsettling – and somewhat bizarre – appearance. The ghost wore "a long dark blue hooded cloak" and had "a mass of tangled black hair which falls over the forehead." As the headline attests, heavy riding boots with spurs adorned the spooky figure's feet. It seems that the spirit wasn't inclined to make friends with the locals. We hear of evil eyes which "gleam menacingly on the approach of a mortal."

A fresh ghost hunt was immediately launched by "a number of Niddrie Mains young men" but they found nothing. Another man claimed to have seen "a shadowy being glide round the ruins". Once again it escaped by "vanishing through an old doorway." As far as we know, there's been no more sightings of the "ghost with spurs" since. Could it still be floating around the many nooks and crannies of Craigmillar Castle?

## The chilling curse of Cardoness

Cardoness Castle is a well-preserved 15<sup>th</sup> century tower house close to Gatehouse of Fleet in Dumfries and Galloway. Today's visitors can take in panoramic views from the top of the six-storey stronghold or marvel at the house's elegant features – but beware! Rumour has it that a curse afflicts the land in upon which it is built...

The grisly tale begins with one odious Laird of Cardoness, who was desperate for an heir. Legend has it he threatened his wife that unless she produced a son, he would drown her and all of their nine daughters. Thankfully a baby boy was born. To mark the occasion, the Laird declared that a grand winter celebration should take place on a frozen loch nearby. Festivities were in full spring when disaster struck. The ice gave way beneath the party. The Laird and his guests plunged to a freezing, ironic death. The "Cardoness Curse" had begun.

Just one of the Laird's daughters escaped. She went on to marry one of the notorious, lawless McCulloch clan. They built the

existing castle on the "cursed" spot in the late 1400s. The McCullochs were beset by financial hardship and became engaged in a lengthy and bloody feud with the Gordons, another prominent Galloway family. Alexander McCulloch and his son Godfrey committed numerous murderous acts against the Gordons. The feud came to a head in the late 1600s when the bankrupt McCullochs were forced to mortgage Cardoness. It was acquired by none other than the Gordon family. Enraged, Godfrey McCulloch shot the new owner, John Gordon, in the leg. John died from his wounds and Godfrey was charged with murder.

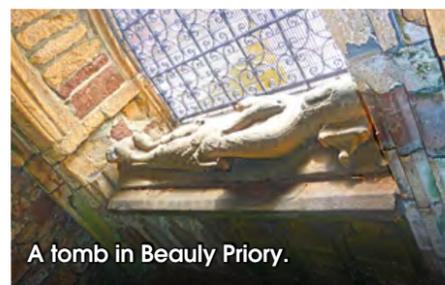
He was beheaded on Edinburgh's Royal Mile in 1697, one of the last victims of the infamous Maiden guillotine. The "Cursed" Castle was abandoned. There's only final supernatural twist to this tale. A legend quoted by Walter Scott makes the far-fetched claim that Godfrey was saved from his fate by a gnome that he had done a favour for many years earlier. Equally as far-fetched is the rumour that Godfrey's headless body ran 100 yards along the Royal Mile after the execution!

## A night of terror with "The Grey Paw"

Our final story is brought to us by Victorian folklorist John Gregorson Campbell. Campbell travelled Scotland in the 1850s and 1860s, collecting a wealth of stories of superstition, second sight and supernatural occurrences. Many were published posthumously in 1900 the epic *Superstitions of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland*.

This spooky yarn, best told by candle or firelight, begins way up in the Highlands at "the Big Church of Beaulieu" where locals had reported unearthly sights and sounds after dark. It was said that those who went to investigate the mysterious goings-on never returned alive. One day, a courageous (or foolhardy) tailor laid a wager. He would spend an entire night inside the "haunted" church – and there he would sew a pair of hose (socks). Things went swimmingly until "the dead hour of midnight" when "a big ghaistly head emerged from a tomb". The fearsome figure spoke in Gaelic: "Fhaic thu 'n t-seann bhò liath 's i gun bhiadh, a thàilleir/ Look at the old grey cow that is without food, tailor."

"I see that and I sew this," the tailor replied, hurriedly continuing with his work. But with every breath the tailor took the flesh-less spectre emerged further from the tomb. As each new body part appeared, the ghoulish figure repeated its mantra. "A long grizzled weasand (gullet)" was followed by a "long grey arm" and "a



A tomb in Beaulieu Priory.

long, crooked shank." Terrified, the tailor attempted to focus on his work, replying over and over "I see that and I sew this."

Finally, the ghostly body was complete and it began to reach across the church towards its victim with: "Spòg mhòr liath gun fhuil gun fheadail gun fhéithean 's i gun bhiadh, a thàilleir/ A long grey paw without blood or flesh or muscles or food, tailor." Taking a deep breath, the brave tailor put the last stitch into his socks and sprinted for the door. The ghost pursued, grabbing at him with long, bony fingers and wailing "a big grey claw that is without food, tailor!"

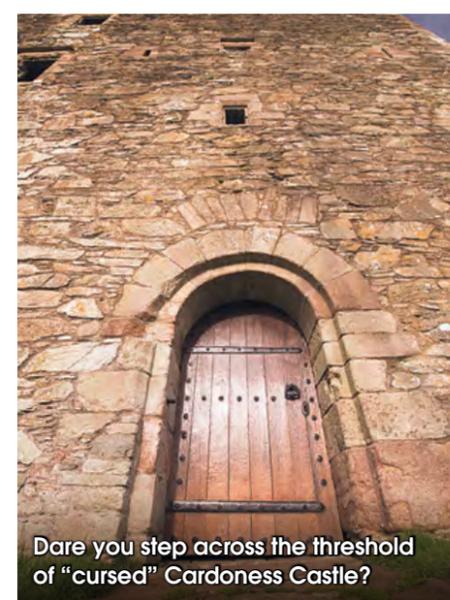
Our hero escaped by the skin of his teeth, but not before he was caught on the behind by the phantom claw as he leapt to freedom. A hole in the priory wall made by the claw is said to remain in place to this day. And what of the traumatised tailor? The wager was won, but his "flesh shook and quivered with terror, and he could cut grass with his haunches as he flew home." According to Campbell, a version of the tale exists "for almost every church in the Highlands".

At Iona Abbey, there was supposedly a Toll an Tàilleir (Tailor's Hole) where a clothier worked incessantly "until things began to trouble him at night." Beaulieu Priory and Iona Abbey are peaceful havens today. Thankfully, we've yet to have any reported sightings of a Gaelic-speaking ghoulish, a terrified tailor or his spooky socks! "The Grey Paw" remains a perfect ghost story for a winter evening. It's easy to imagine the story being told around the fire in Highland homes, with shadows on the wall being used to recreate the terrifying emergence of the ghostly body.

**Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. For more details see: [www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)**



The fields and lanes around Craigmillar Castle were the ghost's stomping, or gliding, ground.



Dare you step across the threshold of "cursed" Cardoness Castle?

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# SCOT POURRI

*This month we offer a selection of some of the messages we have received from across the globe regarding the recent passing of Scottish Banner founder, publisher and editor-Valerie Cairney.*



## Remembering Valerie Cairney



Dear Sean,  
With warm memories and sadness, I read your editorial comments honouring your mother, Val Cairney. I had the good fortune of knowing Val for some 35 years. I met her as “wannabe” contributor to *the Scottish Banner* in 1985. I was already a fan of *the Banner* since its inception a decade earlier. However, being accepted and getting to know Val through my column and attending some Scottish and British events with her, I realized what a tour de force she was. Not only a successful business woman, but a marketing ambassador for Scotland and all things Scottish to a receptive audience of expats. First in Canada, then the U.S. and later Australasia. Every month she brought so many Scots a “wee bit o’ hame”. I was pleased to have occasionally appeared with Val at Highland Games she attended here in Canada. It was obvious that she had a natural ease with people whether it was a having a wee “blether” with a subscriber or mingling with a clan chief, Scottish politician or a television celebrity. She was open to anyone or anything that promoted Scottish culture. Val kept Scotland alive for more than one generation and will be truly missed but not forgotten. I am glad to have known her and so very pleased to be able to have called her my friend.  
*Ron Dempsey Ontario, Canada*

I am shocked to hear from you that Valerie had passed away. When I first joined *the Banner*, I made a phone call and thought that I was talking to a receptionist. I was taken aback when I mentioned that I used to watch John Cairney, (Robert Burns) on TV and the lady on the other end, said “John is my brother -in- law. I am Valerie Cairney “ I was stunned. Here I am talking the ‘Top Gun’ of *the Scottish Banner*. Needless to say, I am still a member. She was a lovely lady.  
*Jack Melville  
Winnipeg, Canada*

The Scottish diaspora community has lost a giant with the passing of Valerie Cairney, founder of *the Scottish Banner*. Though we never met, Valerie was kind enough to agree to guest on my podcast, *Under The Tartan Sky*, in its first month of existence back in 2015. I was unknown to her, the podcast was unknown then and had no audience to speak of, but I think she sensed that I shared a passion for Scotland, just as she did, and so was willing to help me get started.

It is our passion for Scotland, whether by blood or heartfelt affinity, that unites all who read the *Scottish Banner*. As the USA’s Global Ambassador for dotScot Registry, the online domain for Scots around the world, we are fortunate to have the paper continue, under her son Sean’s guidance and as Valerie’s legacy. What a wonderful gift she has given us all.

*Glen Moyer  
Producer/Host Under The Tartan Sky  
USA Global Ambassador for dotScot  
Registry/dotScot Domains  
USA*

Our community has lost a devoted advocate. RIP Valerie.

*Clan Currie Society - Learned Kindred of Currie  
USA*

Great newspaper both here in Scotland and keeping overseas Scots well informed. Valerie was always pleasant and had time to chat when attending the Scotland Trade Fair in Glasgow.

*Coll Maclean  
Scotland*



Val Cairney brought us so many heartwarming stories, recognition of performances and people, and helped so many people

with help finding their roots, their favorite recipes, and making friends. Her work stands the test of time, and is a wonderful legacy of a woman who cared so much about her ancestry, and helped those of us in the Celtic community learn more. *The Banner* is her legacy, and her warmth shines right through.

On a personal note, Val and her son Sean have so very kindly supported the pipe band’s work and helped us share our stories with their readership all over the world – and meeting her was like meeting a dear friend for the first time – and their work will continue, and we will always remember Val, a lady who cared, and shared. She was just fabulous!

*Bethany Bisaillion  
Sons of Scotland Pipe Band  
Ottawa, Canada*

Wonderful lady who dubbed me “Mother of Tartan Day” in her paper. We met in Toronto at Castle Loma when I received my award. She was so nice and bouncy personality. She’ll have the pipes playing in Heaven that is for sure.

*Jean Watson  
Nova Scotia, Canada*

Dear Sean,  
We are so sorry to hear of your mother’s passing. A great lady with a great initiative and love of Scottish heritage and culture. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.  
*Malcolm Buchanan  
Scottish Australian Heritage Council  
Canberra, Australia*

On behalf of the Chief, President, executive committee, affiliated and associate members of the Victorian Scottish Union, I extend our deepest condolences to Sean and *the Scottish Banner* family on the loss of Valerie, mother, colleague and dear friend.  
*Jan Macdonald, Secretary  
Victorian Scottish Union  
Australia*

Rest in peace Valerie. Valerie and *the Scottish Banner* had been very influential in my personal Scottish heritage. I’m very grateful to her, and she will be dearly missed.  
*Gary Henderson  
Niagara Falls, New York  
USA*

So sorry for your loss. On behalf of the Scottish American Society of Dunedin and my work with the Dunedin Highland Games, I offer our sincere condolences. She leaves quite a legacy in Florida.  
*Joan Brennan McHale  
Florida, USA*

It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of Valerie Cairney, a great lady and mother of *the Scottish Banner* publisher and editor Sean Cairney. Valerie, along with husband Jim, came up with the idea of a Scottish publication in the 1970s. Under Valerie’s stewardship, and now that of son Sean, *the Scottish Banner* has helped to bring together the global Scottish community with her love of Scottish heritage and culture.

Clan Cameron in Australia wishes Sean and the family our sincere condolences.  
*Clan Cameron in Australia*

Our condolences to all at *the Scottish Banner* and her family.  
*Cobourg Highland Games  
Cobourg, Ontario  
Canada*

Sincere Sympathies to all. I remember the very first *Scottish Banner* and what a legacy Val has left for many to enjoy. RIP.  
*Anne McDonald  
Canada*



I received the latest edition of *the Scottish Banner* earlier today thank you and, like many, I was very sad to learn

of the passing of your mother, Valerie Cairney. Knowing the impact that Valerie had on many such as myself who only met your mother in passing circumstances on one occasion, I can only express my deep condolences to you and other members of the family on the very sad news of the death of your mother. I met your mother briefly during her visit for ‘Bundanoon is Brigadoon’ in 2011.  
*Stewart Campbell  
Canberra, Australia*

Valerie’s legacy is quite something for us to cherish. For many years *the Scottish Banner* was one of the only ways for Scots to reach ex-pats and the fact it still is a leader in expat Scottish affairs is a credit to Valerie, over four decades later. Valerie was a trail blazer in many ways, especially as a woman in publishing in the 1970’s and making it so far. Scotland owes Val so much for all she has done, and I hope she knows the impact she has had on so many.  
*Carol MacPherson  
Glasgow, Scotland*

Sorry to hear of Val’s passing. She did a story about my radio show (*A Little Breath of Scotland*) in the very first edition of *the Scottish Banner*. Had many happy times broadcasting from the original British Show’s in Toronto.  
*Denis Snowdon  
Ontario, Canada*

Such sad news to hear about the passing of Val Cairney. I enjoyed her warmth and passion for Scotland and this fine publication. I was not lucky enough to have met Val but felt I knew her over the years as she shared her views and life with us. I am so sure she put in so much hard work to keep the paper growing and offering us, her readers, a little bit of not only home but a great sense of community. I hope leaders of the Scottish community not only here in New Zealand but also across the ex-pat world give her the much deserved nod she has earned, as she has kept the Scottish fires burning in thousands of people and likely benefitted many Scottish organisations by doing so.  
*Ron Bruce  
Wellington, New Zealand*

On behalf of the committee we would like to pass our sincere condolences to the family of Valerie Cairney, founder, editor and publisher of *the Scottish Banner*. Valerie was a past Chieftain of our gathering and will be sorely missed in the Scottish community.  
*Bundanoon Highland Gathering Inc.  
Australia*

Very sad news about the passing of a giant in the global Scottish cultural movement. She was a great friend to the Federation. Deepest condolences to the Cairney family at this time.  
*Federation for Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia  
Nova Scotia, Canada*

Sending love and light to Valerie’s family, and to all who love her. She has built a solid legacy that will continue to have a ripple effect around the world for years to come. Xx  
*Karen Piccirillo*

Right with you and your family, Sean! Your Mom was an amazing and inspiring woman! What a massive legacy she has left behind!  
*Tyler Fry  
Houston, Texas  
USA*

# SCOTSPEAK

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

**"It will attract visitors, bring new jobs and boost retail and hospitality trade. It will broaden and deepen Moffat's attractiveness to whisky lovers around the world."**

Nick Bullard, founder and managing director of Dark Sky Spirits, said as Dumfries & Galloway Council has approved plans for a single malt whisky distillery to be built in Moffat, marking the town's first legal Scotch distillery. It will use traditional methods to craft single malt whisky in small batches, using wooden washbacks and worm tub condensers to create a medium-bodied Scotch with notes of biscuit and citrus, in keeping with the Lowland style.



**"Waverley made heavy contact while berthing at Brodick Pier on Thursday 3rd September and will be unable to undertake any further sailings this season. We extend our thanks to everyone who has supported our sailings in 2020."**

A spokesperson for the paddle steamer Waverley said after the vessel crashed into a pier on the Isle of Arran, injuring 24 people. The Waverley had just returned to passenger service following her Boiler Refit which was delayed during the lockdown. Built in 1947, Waverley is the last seagoing paddle steamer in the world. **"There were times during this that I was completely broken and I was questioning why I was doing it and what was the point. There was never a point I thought about quitting though because it's not something that I would think of:"**

Record breaking mountain runner Donnie Campbell said as he broke the record for the fastest solo round of all 282 Munros in Scotland by eight days. Mr Campbell finished the round in 31 days and 23 hours. The incredible journey was the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest 14 times. A Munro is defined as a mountain in Scotland with a height over 3,000 feet (914.4 m).

**"He's such a content wee boy and we never thought anything about him being the youngest munro-bagger. Lots of people were saying, how old is he? This must be a record!"**

Chloe Henderson said her ten-week-old baby is thought to have become Scotland's youngest Munro-bagger. Baby Innis conquered Ben Lawers and Beinn Ghlas, with help from mum and dad Lee. Munros named after Sir Hugh Munro who scaled and mapped them all back in 1891.



**"Our cemeteries are poignant places of reflection and remembrance, as well as a haven for wildlife and fauna and an important part of our larger green spaces network for biodiversity and habitat corridors. Before the Covid-19 restrictions, it would be common to see tour groups of up to 50 with only one tour guide, thus making it difficult to ensure that a reasonable and respectful code of conduct was maintained. Consultation has been held with organised paid Ghost and Harry Potter tour operators, including those who operate as free tours**

**who ask for a donation as well as visitors to the church and other stakeholders. All support a formalised code of conduct and that a donation contribution towards maintenance is also a reasonable request. We are not trying to prevent visitors from exploring our cemeteries but rather work together as we protect and enhance these historic city centre sights."**

Edinburgh City Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan, Culture and Communities Vice Convener, said as the city has proposed the introduction of a registration scheme and a formalised code of conduct for tour operators who take groups to visit the city's cemeteries as part of their paid tour. Council owns and operates 39 cemeteries across the city, five of which are historic city centre graveyards in the UNESCO World Heritage area. Canongate, Greyfriars and Old Calton are Category A listed for the national significance of their monuments, memorials and walls. They have also grown in popularity with visitors. For example, it is estimated that 600,000 to 700,000 people visit Greyfriars Cemetery each year for reasons such as Greyfriars Bobby, graves linked to Harry Potter characters and as part of popular Ghost Tours.



**"The Borders Railway is the longest new domestic railway to be constructed in Britain for more than 100 years. As a result, the introduction of the railway five years ago was a momentous occasion not just the Borders but the whole**

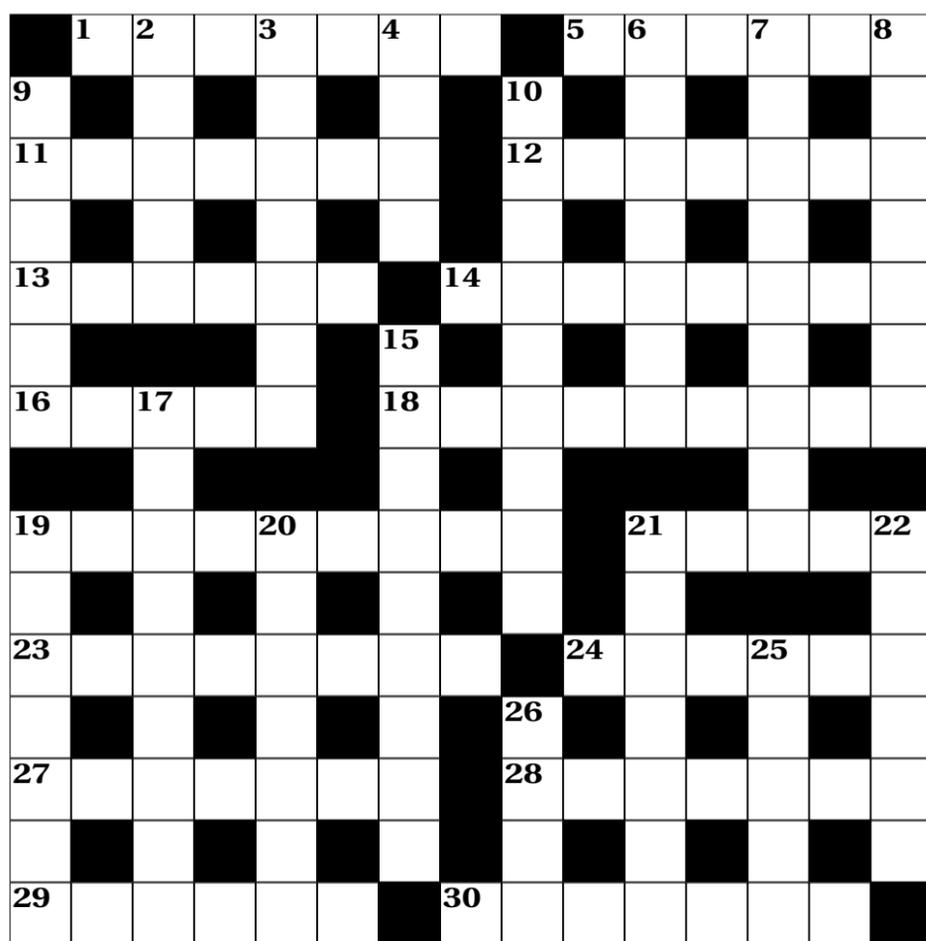
**country, particularly when Her Majesty The Queen officially opened the line in Tweedbank. The millions of journeys made since 2015 on the Borders Railway are testament to the hard work and commitment by various organisations, partners and campaigners to return rail to our area for the first time since 1969. The benefits the railway have brought to the Borders are significant and include encouraging visitors to explore our beautiful area, increasing the use of public transport which has reduced the use of car journeys and attracting people to work and live in our area."**

Scottish Borders Councillor David Parker said as the Borders Railway celebrated its fifth anniversary. September 2015 saw the Scottish Borders receive global attention with a host of events which marked the return of rail to the area for the first time in 46 years. Now there the council is looking at a case for a potential extension of the line to Hawick, Newcastleton and onto Carlisle in England.

**"To grow the community, to give it resilience, to deal with the challenges and issues of running an off-grid community, off-grid water and off-grid hydro-electric, we need more people, we need more kids in the school. Everything is stressed by the fact that there is not enough people."**

Steve Robertson, of Isle of Rum Community Trust, said more people were needed to make island life sustainable. Rum, one of the Small Isles in the Inner Hebrides, has a population of 30 and just two children attend its school. Four new homes have been built with locals hoping families with young children will be among those renting them. An appeal for people to move to the island was first made in March but no-one has taken up the offer so far.

## 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 17!

### CLUES ACROSS:

- 1) Town 7 miles west of Glasgow (7).
- 5) Method of printing (6).
- 11) Sets of clothes (7).
- 12) Area of Lochaber (7).
- 13) Mill worker (6).
- 14) An outdoor teapot (5-3).
- 16) Stays in Scotland (5).
- 18) North-east fishing port (9).
- 19) Free and easy knights (9).
- 21) He's from Tayside! (5).
- 23) Carrot tops! (8).
- 24) Famous Glasgow street (6).
- 27) Stair level (7).
- 28) An attacking batsman (7).
- 29) Leave off (6).
- 30) Cornflakes (7).

### CLUES DOWN:

- 2) Its water flows gently (5).
- 3) Evening get-together (7).
- 4) Irish Gaelic (4).
- 6) Sounds a swindling musician (7).
- 7) Sausage sounds hard boiled! (6, 3).
- 8) Seated as ruler! (7).
- 9) Spider on the net! (6).
- 10) A coat for a Scot! (9).
- 15) Member! (9).
- 17) Total shares (9).
- 19) Coagulated! (7).
- 20) Old lamplighters (7).
- 21) Town 11 miles east of Glasgow (7).
- 22) Asks a Scot a question (6).
- 25) Country bumpkin (5).
- 26) Surrounded by water (4).

# The Celtic roots of Hallowe'en

As the world goes 'Trick or Treating?', it's worth remembering that today's commercialised candy fest was born out of an ancient Celtic festival, one whose roots run deep in Scotland. Like many ancient festivals, Hallowe'en has its roots in Scotland's pre-Christian culture, when communities would come together to celebrate a festival known as Samhain - a night marking the end of summer and the coming of winter: the dying of the light and the coming of the dark.

## Samhain

Samhain was a harvest festival, marking the final harvest of the year and the beginning of the onset of winter. It was traditionally seen as an occasion for revelry as well as for making offerings to protect the cattle and crops over the coming winter. People also believed it was a time when witches and warlocks were out and about engaging in wicked practices. In many parts of Scotland, it was customary to leave an empty chair and a plate of food out for invisible guests.

People believed that it was the night when the souls of their dead ancestors were set free to roam and they might come into their houses and eat at their tables. The night was also known as 'mischief night', due to the tradition of playing pranks - something that has been recorded as far back as the 1700's.

Fire would also play an important role in any Samhain ritual. Sometimes, two bonfires would be built side by side and the people, sometimes with their cattle, would walk between them as a cleansing ritual. In parts of Scotland, torches of burning fir or turf were also carried around homes and fields to protect them.

In some places, people doused their hearth fires on Samhain night. Each family then solemnly re-lit its hearth from the communal bonfire, bonding the families of the village together.

Communal eating was another common theme on this day and this can be seen in the custom of the Scottish Hallowe'en cake. Hidden inside this delicacy would be three trinkets: a ring, a coin, and a button. Whoever got the ring would be the first to wed, the one who found the coin would see riches, but finding the button would mean you would never marry.

Samhain continued despite the coming of Christianity - 1 November became known as All Saints Day, while the night before (31 October) was Eve of All Saints' Day, or All Hallow's Eve - now better known around the world as Hallowe'en.

From carved lanterns, to scary costumes and sweet treats, almost all of today's Hallowe'en traditions can be traced back to Scotland; and, as Scots emigrated to the New World, they took these traditions with them.

Today, the custom of going door-to-door collecting food for Samhain feasts, fuel for Samhain bonfires and offerings for the aos sí (fairies or nature spirits) has evolved into one of Hallowe'en's most famous aspects - trick or treating.

## The supernatural

It's not hard to understand why, in Scotland of all places, Hallowe'en continues to be such an important day - much of the nation's history involves the supernatural. There is a special atmosphere in many parts of Scotland even to this day where, as daylight fades, the flames of Hallowe'en bonfires show up ancient ramparts of castles and buildings where devilish deeds once may have been done.

Robert Burns, Scotland's greatest bard, wrote extensively of how ancient beliefs had survived well into the Christian era, as he twisted stories of witchcraft and the devil with the traditions kept alive during Hallowe'en. His 1785 poem Hallowe'en details many of the national customs and legends surrounding the festival which persisted even with the introduction of Christianity.

Burns was also fond of a spooky tale or two, as evidenced by one of his most famous poems, Tam O'Shanter. The poem details Tam's trip home from the pub on



his faithful horse, Meg and an unfortunate run in with a number of witches, warlocks and a bagpipe-playing Devil!

What is remarkable is how so much of the pagan past persists to this day. Bonfires, which once were lit to scare away the undead, still illuminate the October sky. Lanterns, which in Scotland were always carved out of a turnip - not a pumpkin - are fashioned for the same purpose.

Although the act of 'trick or treating' is very much an American notion, Scotland does have its own version. Traditionally children would dress up in old clothes to go 'guising' - a shortened form of the word disguise - and would go around their friends' and neighbours' houses, performing songs, jokes, stories, and tricks in return for gifts of fruit or nuts. Today these worlds have collided and trick or treating is far more prominent - though you will still get a few traditionalists looking for a little routine before they hand over those sweet treats.

This Hallowe'en, as the night sky darkens, fires are lit, and the festivities commence, it's fun to know that the trick or treaters, and the guisers, both young and old, are treading in the footsteps of their Scottish ancestors.

Happy Hallowe'en!

Text and images courtesy of: Scotland.org



# Did you know?

## The Barrowland Ballroom

- East End Glasgow's Barrowland Ballroom opened in 1934 by Margaret and James McIver, who also was behind the area's Barras Market which will be 100 years old in 2021.
- The Barrowlands was originally built as a ballroom and only came to be a concert venue from 1983.
- The two-storey building was tragically destroyed by a fire in 1958, but reopened on Christmas Eve 1960.
- The original sign on the roof was a man pushing a barrow, was imported from the USA, and it was believed to be the first animated neon sign in the UK. Over the stairs as you enter the present building the wheel of the original neon sign remains.

- The dance floor is made of specially imported Canadian Maple and was considered the best dancefloor in Glasgow. When the venue took on concerts 18 steel pillars were installed to spread the weight of attendees by a company who design oil rigs.
- Paranormal investigators who spent the night in the venue and claim a former doorman called James haunts the building.
- Some big names names in music have graced the Barrowland's stage such as David Bowie, Bob Dylan, REM, Oasis, Metallica Simple Minds, Snoop Dogg, U2, Simply Red, Deacon Blue, Rolling Stones, etc.
- To this day the Barrowland is still in the hands of Margaret McIver's family.

## 14th Annual Balmoral Classic

Nov. 14 2020

### US Junior Solo Piping & Drumming Championships

Coming to YouTube!

The Competition

9:00am-5:00pm EST

This will be a virtual event for pipers and drummers age 21 and younger, with competitors submitting videos to our panel of renowned judges.

The Concert

7:30pm EST

Featuring Alasdair Fraser, one of the greatest carriers of the Scottish fiddle music tradition, an inspiration to generations of musicians.

The Workshop

Sunday, Nov. 15, from 11:00am to 1:00pm EST  
Piobaireachd workshop for pipers with Robert Wallace.

www.bagpiping.org

By: Eric Bryan

# Graveyard Garrisons-Scottish mortsafes



Towie in Aberdeenshire upturned mortsafe. © Copyright Bill Harrison.

**T**here was a time when mortal remains newly buried in Scottish graveyards were in danger of not resting in peace for long. This state of affairs was born out of the Scottish schools of anatomy having need of cadavers for dissection. The government controlled the supply of bodies, which were usually those of executed criminals. Since there was a continual scarcity of corpses, body snatchers could make good money by selling cadavers to the schools.

The demand for corpses for dissection in Scotland traces back to a 1505 charter granted to the Incorporation of Surgeons and Barbers in Edinburgh, which required that each candidate know the complete anatomy of a human body. In 1636 William Gordon, Mediciner of King's College, Aberdeen, formally requested of the Privy Council that he be allowed to teach human anatomy. The Council subsequently granted Gordon two bodies per annum of executed criminals. When Alexander Monteith opened Surgeon's Hall in Edinburgh in 1697, he was granted use of the bodies of those who died in 'the correction house.' In return, Monteith provided free medical care to the poor. Monteith conducted his first public dissection in the anatomy theatre of Surgeon's Hall in 1703.

## The creation of the mortsafe

Because surgeons, professors and students were using cadavers for study and to achieve advances in medicine, the Scottish authorities tended to look the other way, in regards to body snatching, and tried to avoid publicising such events. Some cases which the public did become aware of led to riots, burial ground battles, the destruction of property, and even murder. As the number of Scottish anatomy schools increased in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, so did the demand for cadavers. Remote graveyards were especially vulnerable to grave rifling, so were often targeted by body snatchers.



A night watchman disturbs a body snatcher. Etching with engraving by W. Austin, 1773.

The practice was especially repugnant to the Scots, who had a tradition of reverence for the dead. Many Scots also believed in the eventual literal resurrection of the body, for which it was supposed that the remains must be whole, and so not dissected.

## There was a time when mortal remains newly buried in Scottish graveyards were in danger of not resting in peace for long.

Wealthy families could deter grave robbers because they could afford vaults, caged graves, mausoleums and weighty stone table tombs for the interment of the bodies of their loved ones. It was the graves of the poor which were the most easily violated. Poor people took to arranging flowers or pebbles on the graves of their dead in an attempt to track any disturbance to the earth. Other early attempts of dissuading body snatchers included putting layers of branches and stones into the grave and then tightly compacting the soil, which made excavation difficult. Massive rock slabs known as mort-stones, placed atop graves, were another form of disincentive.

Body snatchers however would dig down at the head of the grave beyond the mort-stone or tunnel in from further away and gain access to the coffin. Body snatchers were known to use wooden spades for their exhumations, as when one was thrust into the earth it made a softer sound than did a metal spade, and so lessened the chance of the diggers being discovered in the night. All of these factors led to the quest for other methods of grave protection, resulting in the creation of the mortsafe.

Invented circa 1816, mortsafes were made of iron or iron and stone. Some were a combination of iron rods and plates which enclosed a coffin, and were padlocked together. Tellingly, examples of such have been discovered in churchyards near all Scottish medical schools. One type of mortsafe comprised an iron plate which was placed over the coffin. Iron rods with heads were slid downward through holes in the plate and formed a fence round the coffin, then another iron plate was set upon the first, thereby covering the

heads of the rods. The two plates were then padlocked together, which secured the rods in place. It required two keys to open the locks, and two caretakers were assigned one key each.

## Grave watching

Mortsafes were deployed at a grave for about six weeks, at which point the state of decay of the remains made the cadaver of no use for dissection, and so safe from the body snatchers. Some churches hired out mortsafes, and mortsafe societies formed which charged annual membership fees and bought mortsafes to hire out. In Glasgow, a mortsafe was lent out at the rate of a shilling per day. One type of mortsafe comprised a cage of iron bars which, when put into the grave, surrounded the coffin. A stone slab was positioned on top of the cage, and the whole affair buried. After about six weeks, the mortsafe was extracted for reuse in other graves. Another kind of mortsafe was a heavy cast-iron coffin shaped container which was simply placed over the coffin, buried, and then unearthed for reuse at the appropriate time. Those who could afford it could purchase a mortsafe and simply leave it buried in the grave permanently.

An alternate method of protecting recently buried bodies was the practice of grave watching. Relatives and friends of the deceased and/or hired men kept watch over the grave at night. The laborious and unpleasant task of disinterring mortsafes made the prospect of nocturnal grave watching seem far simpler and more appealing. The watchers were typically groups of men, sometimes equipped with firearms. The prevalence of grave watching led to the formation of watching societies, such as one in Glasgow which had 2000 members.

Watch-houses, to accommodate the watchers, were built in many graveyards in Scotland. These were usually one room structures with a fireplace, and windows which offered clear views of the surrounding burial ground. Some ornate watch-houses were constructed in the form of small towers, and had two or three storeys. One such example in the graveyard at Banchory Ternan has its watch room – complete with fireplace – on the second floor, the elevated position providing an advantageous lookout point. This watch-house, dated 1829, also has a bell at the top which could be rung to give warning or to call for help.

Graveyards near schools of medicine in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow all used methods of protecting fresh graves, either with mortsafes, grave watching during the hours of darkness, or both.

Mort-houses, which evolved from the mortsafe concept, were solidly built vaults with thick walls and no windows, and heavily reinforced iron and wood doors. Bodies were stored in mort-houses until sufficiently decomposed and of no use for dissection, then buried.



One of two fine specimens of mortsafes in Greyfriars Kirkyard, Edinburgh. Photo: Kim Traynor.

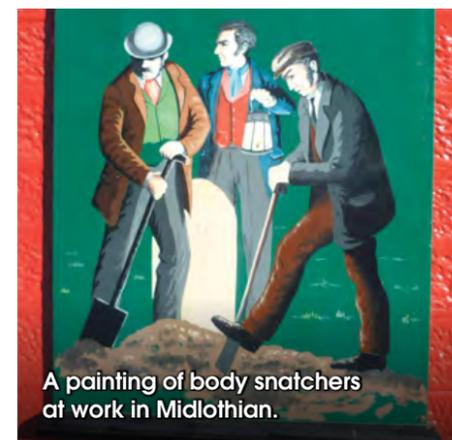
## The Anatomy Bill

The scandal of the Burke and Hare crimes (the trial began on Christmas Eve, 1828) intensified the public's fear of body snatching, though rather than robbing bodies from graves, Burke and Hare murdered people and then sold the corpses to customers such as Edinburgh anatomist Dr Robert Knox. The furore led to the use of vaults in Scotland, which were constructed through public subscription. Many in Aberdeenshire were built partially or completely below ground, while others were above-ground types.

The 1832 Anatomy Bill required that those practising anatomy obtain a licence, which was issued by the Home Secretary. The act stipulated that a person could dissect a body with the proviso that it was acquired lawfully, and that no relation of the deceased objected. It granted surgeons, physicians and students legal access to unclaimed cadavers, especially of those who died in workhouses or prisons.

A relative could also donate a corpse for study in exchange for the covering of the burial expenses. Inspectors working under the Home Secretary kept tabs on the anatomists, who were obliged to prepare regular reports for review. The Anatomy Bill for the most part brought an end to the illicit trade in cadavers, but the threat of the 'resurrection men' cast a long and sinister shadow, and it took some decades for the public's fear of body snatching to subside. The East Anstruther Mortsafe Society of Fife, for instance, didn't dissolve until 1869; and Robert Louis Stevenson's short story *The Body Snatcher* was published in the Pall Mall Christmas "Extra" in 1884. The story, one of RLS's 'creepers', is set around the time of the Burke and Hare crimes and features characters based on those employed by Dr Robert Knox.

Some examples of mortsafes are extant, leftover in Scottish burial grounds and kirkyards, and a few are on display in museums.



A painting of body snatchers at work in Midlothian.



Mortsafe at St Nicholas Old Kirk, Prestwick, South Ayrshire.

# The Balmoral Classic in the time of Covid



Competitors at last year's Balmoral Classic.



Premier violinist Alasdair Fraser.

Simultaneous LiveChat will enable friends, family and fans of competitors to support their favorites, or for viewers to weigh in with their thoughts. Following the performances will be a live-streamed awards ceremony.

Later that evening, a virtual concert with Alasdair Fraser will begin at 7:30pm EST. Fraser is one of the premier violinists in the Celtic music genre. Playing tunes from his native Scotland, he is as adept at playing lively reels as he is at soulful ballads. During the concert's intermission, the winning performance in the pipers' March, Strathspey, and Reel event, and the drummers' Hornpipe and Jig event, will be shown. Arthur McAra will emcee the competition and concert.

The concert will be followed by a live Q&A period with Alasdair Fraser. Saturday's virtual competition will be free to the public. A \$20 donation will be requested for the Alasdair Fraser concert. Our final event of Classic 2020 will be a piobaireachd workshop for our piping competitors with Robert Wallace of Glasgow, current President of the Piobaireachd Society of Scotland. Wallace has won the Highland Society of London Gold Medal at Oban (1985) and at Inverness (1995), the Bratach Gorm, the Dunvegan Medal and Clasp and many other prestigious awards. He is also editor and proprietor of Piping Press, a web magazine covering Scotland's national music, that of the great Highland bagpipe.

We hope *the Scottish Banner* readership will join us on YouTube for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Balmoral Classic. This is a great chance to come out of isolation, if only online, to celebrate the music of Scotland and to visit with friends from all over the world.



Balmoral Classic winners.

(Scotland), Jim McGillivray (Canada), and Scot Walker (USA). Drumming Judges will be Jim Kilpatrick (Scotland), Steven Shedden (Australia), and Gordon Bell (USA).

In past years, the Classic Competition has been the main focus of the event, with the best young pipers and drummers coming to Pittsburgh from across the US and Canada to compete for prizes, such as premium bagpipes and drums, scholarships, and trophies. This year, applications will be due by October 14, and pipers and drummers chosen to compete will submit recorded performances between November 4 and November 8. Contestants may sign up for any one of three Prerecording Workshops with professional piper Sean Patrick Regan, Balmoral Coordinator of Online Productions. Regan, who expertly ran this year's summer school Zoom sessions, will work with competitors to ensure that they are prepared to submit their best recordings.

## Celebrate the music of Scotland

Our 2020 judges will view all the videos and will decide which are the top five performances. All of the contestants' videos will be presented to the public in groups of three as YouTube Premieres, between 9:00am and 5:00pm EST, Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**2020** has been a time of change for all of us in the pipe band world. Highland games have been cancelled, while classes, competitions and band practices have gone online. And while all of us have missed up-close camaraderie with fellow musicians, some who make their homes in out of the way places have found it easier to obtain quality instruction, attend every pipe band practice, or compete in more contests.

## World champion Highland piping and drumming instructors

Since 1979, the Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming has been bringing world champion Highland piping and drumming instructors to US students for our summer school sessions at college campuses throughout the United States. Forced this year to move to remote learning, a process that involved a steep learning curve for many of us, we found there were quite a few positives resulting from that move. Students from faraway states and other nations, for whom travel to Pittsburgh

would've been a hardship, were able to attend Balmoral's online classes and one-on-one tutoring sessions. And we were able to take American students on live tours of pipe and reed manufacturers in Scotland.

This November, Balmoral faces a new challenge, as the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Balmoral Classic goes online. Since 2007, we have hosted the Classic, a weekend event that includes the US Junior Solo Piping & Drumming Championships, as well as the Classic Concert featuring a well-known pipe band, Celtic music ensemble, or solo performer, and a workshop for pipers with one of our distinguished competition judges. This year's Classic, scheduled for November 14, will take place entirely online, with virtual performances and live-streamed content.

As with our schools, the switch to an online event opens the Classic to international participants. Our distinguished panel of piping and drumming judges reflects this broadening of scope, with judges from Scotland, both coasts of North America, and even Australia. Our 2020 piping judges will be Robert Wallace



Jim Kilpatrick (drumming judge, Scotland) has won the drumming title at The World Pipe Band Championships 19 times.



Robert Wallace, piping judge, Scotland and Piobaireachd Society of Scotland President.



New Slains Castle.

Returning to Cruden Bay in 1895, Stoker sat beneath the castle by the churning sea and began to pen one of the definitive classics of horror, *Dracula*. There, in a quote unveiled by the Kilmarnock Arms' historian, in his mind's eye Stoker "...saw the whole man slowly emerge from the window and began to crawl down the castle wall over that dreadful abyss, face down, with his clock spreading around him like great wings." Spend a stormy evening wandering the shores around New Slains, and you, too, may imagine fell beasts lurking upon the fang-sharp crags.

### The Hunt for the Gorbals Vampire

It seems Scotland is a popular destination for vampires. Most odd and recent of them all is the case of the Gorbals Vampire. In late September 1954, a rumour that a vampire with iron teeth had killed and devoured two schoolchildren took Glasgow by storm. The vampire was said to lurk in the Southern Necropolis, a cemetery shrouded by smoke and a ghastly orange glow in the sky due to the nearby Dixons Blazes ironworks.

Displaying true Glasgow grit, rather than cowering in their beds up to 400 local schoolchildren took up arms - knives and stakes amongst them - to hunt down and slay the beast. They prowled the Necropolis for three nights, undeterred by attempts from police to disperse them. When no trace of a vampire could be found, the young hunters retired. What drove them there in the first place?

Theories abound. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a poem by Alexander Anderson about 'Jenny wi' the Iron Teeth', whom exhausted parents could plead with to steal away children refusing to go to sleep. Pop culture was blamed, too, as an American comic about 'The Vampire with the Iron Teeth' had recently made the rounds. A censorship campaign even reached parliament, resulting in the 1955 Children and Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act. Whatever the fact of the matter, the strange case of the Gorbals Vampire is one of few genuine, full-blown monster hunts in Scottish history.

Scotland's legends and lore are the delight of many the world over, and yet often these tales are grim and full of malice. There are many theories for why this is so. Perhaps it has something to do with the struggle against harsh elements - the thin soils of the Highlands, the frenzied winds of the coasts, and the tumult of the seas have been a source of consternation for untold generations. A siege mentality, with Scots historically struggling against English invasions, Norse raids, and of course neighbourly antagonism, could well lead one to see fell shadows lurking in every neuk and cranny.

Whatever the reason, as the days draw in on the approach to Samhain and the Celtic creation goddess, the Cailleach, brings the first kiss of winter to the glens, there is no shortage of dark and strange stories to tell around the fire. I offer these four: The Haunting of Buckholm Tower, The Big Grey Man of Ben MacDui, *Dracula* at New Slains Castle, and The Hunt for the Gorbals Vampire.

### The Haunting of Buckholm Tower

The late-17<sup>th</sup> century Laird of Buckholm, James Pringle, had a burning hatred for the Covenanters - Presbyterian 'rebels' who defied crown and kirk - matched only by 'Bluidy' Mackenzie of Greyfriars Kirkyard infamy. He was as cruel to his wife and children as he was to those he captured, and all for miles around stayed clear of his tower on the slopes above Galashiels.

Hearing of a gathering of Covenanters on Ladhope Moor, Pringle set out in pursuit. The Covenanters heard word of his approach and fled, though Geordie Elliott had fallen from his horse and his son, William, refused to leave the side of his ailing father. Pringle fell upon them, but was ordered to take them prisoner rather than cut them down. They were taken back to Buckholm Tower and kept in the cellar as Pringle's rage grew with every sip of brandy.



Buckholm Tower meat hook.

Eventually he could resist evil no more. He entered the cellar alone, his servants recoiling at the sounds of agony that followed. When he emerged, grinning, they knew better than to enquire.

Several hours later, Geordie's wife, Isobel, arrived at Buckholm to plead for mercy. Pringle brought Isobel to the cellar and guided her through the doorway, and Isobel let out a terrible shriek - Geordie and William's bodies hung from meat hooks in the ceiling. Pringle accused Isobel of witchcraft, and in turn Isobel cursed him. For the rest of his days, Pringle could be seen fighting and fleeing from invisible assailants, ghostly hounds ever at his heels. Every June on the anniversary of his death tormented screams emanate from the cellar of Buckholm, and the spectre of a man pursued by black hounds flees along the winding path leading to the tower. Having visited before knowing the tale, I noted the grim air of the place and shuddered at the sight of the meat hooks, still in place, and could only be thankful that I did not lay hands on them!

### The Big Grey Man of Ben MacDui

It is common to feel dread upon the hills. A sudden rush of fog and the world can vanish around you, high precipices mere metres away invisible to the eye. When you are the only person for miles around amidst a great tract of wilderness, something primal is bound to creep up the back of one's mind and ask whether you are indeed alone. Yet one hill provokes this ancient fear more than any other - Ben MacDui, the highest peak in the Cairngorms.

Norman Collie, a Professor of Chemistry at University College London, was near the summit in 1891 when he heard the crunching sound of heavy footsteps behind him. They sounded many times longer than the stride of any human. Seeing no one around, panic swept over him and he fled non-stop to the nearest village. This was the first documented account of Am Fear Liath Mòr, the 'Big Grey Man of Ben MacDui'.

At least ten feet tall, covered in grey hair and with talons on his feet, the Big Grey Man has all the hallmarks of a Bigfoot-like hominid. Yet he is more often felt than seen, sometimes accompanied by signing or deep, rumbling laughter. Many climbers since Collie have reported an overwhelming dread near the summit, causing their hearts to race and panic - a deadly force on the hills - to set in.

Explanations range from the idea that Ben MacDui is a liminal place where the Otherworld sometimes reaches through, to the very real phenomenon of Brocken Spectres, when your own shadow is cast on mists below you appearing huge and sometimes even surrounded by an orb of colourful light. Whether supernatural or scientific, Am Fear Liath Mòr is aptly named.

### Dracula at New Slains Castle

Even at the height of its grandeur, New Slains Castle overlooking Cruden Bay in Aberdeenshire must have been a strange place. Originally built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, 19<sup>th</sup> century works refashioned it into a Scots Baronial labyrinth of corridors, turnpike stairs, and chambers. Blood-red brickwork contrasts with smooth, rounded masonry, and innumerable arches and windows allow the constant sound of the turbulent waters below to echo through the castle. As one wanders through the ruins so, too, does the mind. It seems that Bram Stoker was similarly unnerved.

Stoker visited Cruden Bay in 1894, signing a guest book at the Kilmarnock Arms Hotel before accepting an invitation from the Earl of Erroll to stay at his clifftop castle. The journey was undertaken in the pre-electric darkness, and involved no small peril as the land gives way in unexpected places all around. There are no detailed records of his stay, however Stoker surely would have conversed with the laird well into the night.



Buckholm Tower.

# Predicting the future at the Tenement House in Glasgow



By: Rachel Campbell, Visitor Services Assistant (Collections), The Tenement House

Miss Agnes Toward (1886–1975) moved into the Tenement House at 145 Buccleuch Street, Glasgow in 1911 with her mother, during which time they lived through the First and Second World Wars, and public health scares such as Spanish influenza and tuberculosis.

Within the archive at the Tenement House is a collection of guides to palmistry, horoscopes and interpreting dreams, all kept by Miss Toward and rediscovered after her passing in 1975. This may seem like a strange collection of objects for our Miss Toward to have owned, but throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries there was a growing fascination with the supernatural and spiritual in Britain.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert took part in a séance with renowned clairvoyant Georgiana Eagle, and Victoria famously tried to make contact with her beloved husband after his death in 1861. With high levels of child mortality due to poor health and diseases such as measles, the Victorians did all they could to seek comfort in the future and contact their loved ones who had passed away.

### The spiritual

The interest in the spiritual continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and became particularly popular after the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. In one way or another, the war would have affected almost every household in Britain, and Miss Toward lost a work colleague in 1916. The promise of a glimpse into the future brought comfort to many. Many companies began to use 'how to' guides

as a form of advertising. *Doan's Book of Coming Events* listed detailed horoscope predictions alongside its advertising of the company's kidney pills, and *The Future Foretold, Your Fate in a Teacup* was sold alongside tins of Melrose Tea. The belief was that by being able to read these predictions people could be more hopeful of their loved ones on the frontline and public morale at the home front would be upheld.

This guide on *How to read Hands* by Cheiro was printed in the 1930s and advertised bile beans, which claimed to cure a number of ailments. Cheiro was a world-renowned palm reader, and was said to have read the palms of top celebrities and royalty, including Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII). As well as the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Agnes Toward lost her mother in the same year and it's likely that she would have sought reassurance during these uncertain times.

### A rare glimpse into life in Glasgow

It was believed that women were more susceptible to the supernatural and were more likely to engage in these activities. The *Aunt Kate* series of books were published in Scotland in the 1930s and covered all manner of handy household tips for the 1930s housewife. Within the series of *Aunt Kate's Handy Books* kept by Miss Toward were *Aunt Kate's Dream Book* and *Aunt Kate's Fortune Teller*.

By the 1950s and 1960s the popularity of fortune telling waned, but these quirky books remained stored away by Miss Toward at the Tenement House.

At first glance, the Tenement House appears to be an ordinary middle-class tenement from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, standing in Garnethill. However, when you step inside, the faithfully restored four rooms appear as if frozen in time and provide a rare glimpse into life in Glasgow in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Shorthand typist Miss Agnes Toward lived here from 1911 until 1965, and preserved her furniture and possessions with love and care. She held on to all sorts of things that most people would have thrown away, and this extensive personal archive has become a valuable time capsule for visitors today. The Tenement House also reveals what it meant to be an 'independent woman' at that time.

*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](http://www.nts.org.uk)*



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# The lost Chief of Clan Buchanan

*John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan of that Ilk and Arnprior, Chief of the Name and Arms of Buchanan*



**Recently and for the first time since 1681, Clan Buchanan now has a clan chief to represent millions of clansmen and clanswomen around the world. The clan, one of the largest and most ancient in Scotland, has been led by John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan since 2018, now known as The Buchanan. The chiefship of Clan Buchanan was last held by his ancestral kinsman, John Buchanan, until his death without a male heir in 1681. The Buchanan talks to the Scottish Banner on becoming the first Chief in over 337 years and the thriving community of Buchanan clansmen, clanswomen, and septs around the world.**

In August 2018 you became the first chief of Clan Buchanan in 337 years. This was such a historic moment for the Buchanan clan and Scottish genealogy, can you tell us briefly how this incredible moment came to be?

JB: If I take several steps back, forebears of mine have matriculated arms as The Buchanan of Leny and Arnprior. So, we knew that I was the representative of a big branch of Buchanan's. And we knew, obviously, that the Buchanan's of Buchanan were missing. And then there are half dozen branches of

major significance, and that I was head of one of those. We also knew that if you went from the last chief 10 generations back and then come down 19, you get to me. So, we knew the direct link. That however does not prove a chiefship by a long way. It only proves that I was the representative of The Buchanan's of Leny and Arnprior. You are supposed to rematriculate every couple of years, every couple of generations or even every generation really. And my father clearly thought about rematriculating arms because things come

and go. I think he did not do it because it is quite a lot of work to prove that there are no other senior branches. He could simply rematriculated that he was The Buchanan of Leny and Arnprior.

My father always told me the story that when he was discussing it with the Lord Lyon of the day, and we're talking 40 or 50 years ago, said why bother matriculating arms again as Buchanan of Leny and Arnprior when you could go for Buchanan of Buchanan? So, we knew that historical suggestion that the Lord Lyon had thought

we might have had a decent claim. It was not to say we did have the claim, but a reasonable claim.

When I got married, I told all this story to my wife Paula. And by this time, my father's quite an elderly gentleman and was not going to do anything about it. So, Paula took on the exploring the claim as I was quite busy as I had a working career. Paula did have time and she said "Well, why don't we go for it? Why don't we try and prove this?" So, we did. You could perhaps do this on your own, but after a 300-year break and going back 19 generations it is not an easy task. It is not something for an amateur, so we employed a professional.

We, first, found a professional who was actually working for someone else, on the same case. Which was a bit of a surprise, but we could see why his client had given up. But we still thought there was a conflict of interest there perhaps, so we did not go with that one. We went with another genealogist, who turned out to be a Buchanan guy called Hugh Peskett, whose mother was a Buchanan. Hugh was up for it and we employed him 15 years ago and we had no idea it could take fifteen years. We thought a few years and as I said before, we knew the basic link we got that established and confirmed quite quickly.



The Buchanan with Clan members at Canberra Highland Gathering. Photo: Malcolm & Judy Buchanan.



And then we started looking through three or four other families that might have a claim and gradually worked out that none of these other groups still had a claim and that that left me in pole position.

**Is there any protocol in terms of putting together genealogical proof or how widely advertised this claim had to be?**

JB: The dossier that we put together, had 300 references, and ran to 70 pages. It had a chapter on each of the other claimants we could see. This does not mean to say there is not another claimant somewhere that nobody has spotted but we covered all the ones that we could realistically see and why they should not be considered. So, there's chart after chart showing where all these people get to and why they are not in the equation.

**For the first time since 1681, Clan Buchanan now has a clan chief to represent millions of clansmen and clanswomen around the world.**

Once we went public with it, the first people we had to tell were a couple of other Buchanan's who put in caveats. And, I had put in a caveat, which was an instruction to the Lyon Court saying do not decide this without letting me know. So, anyone who is got a remote interest anonymously puts these things that nobody else knows that they are. But if you then put in a proper claim, anyone who is put in a caveat must be told. So, there were two others. They were both people that we thought of as possible contenders and ruled out for various reasons.

So, both had to get personalised notification. The Lord Lyon made us advertise with the two Buchanan societies. There is the international society and there is also the Glasgow based one, which is the oldest of all the Clan societies. Both of those societies carried advertising on their websites and the word got round to lots of people.

**When you go down this big path do you think about your children? Do you think, yes, they are going to want this responsibility passed on to them?**

JB: I think as a parent you must do that,

you hope that they will be interested. And I think they are they all like wearing kilts and going to parties. The youngest one is still in school, but the older ones, particularly Angus who is 24, he goes to every Highland ball there is. We took three of them out to New Hampshire Highland Games recently and we all paraded around together. And they seemed to be enjoying themselves.

What I hope to do is as I was Buchanan of Leny and Arnprior, there actually two sorts of subsidiary titles there that I could pass on to other people. And there's various other variations in there as well. We are probably going to launch claims not for Angus, who one would hope would inherit The Buchanan title. But for Bruce, Lucy and Rory put in fresh claims to be chieftains, not a chief, but the chieftains of Buchanan of Leny, Buchanan of Arnprior and another chieftain title. So that would make them chieftains in their own right. Including Lucy and Angus would be nothing for starters, although just at the minute Angus is Angus John Buchanan younger of that Ilk and Lucy is the Miss Buchanan and she is 17. At the minute Bruce and Rory do not have anything. So hopefully that will enthuse them. We live in Scotland and it is all quite new and mum's quite enthusiastic about it and I am enthusiastic about it too. So, I think they will carry on with it.

**How important do you feel it is for not just the Buchanan clan, but any clan, to be engaged with their expat audiences or their Clan memberships?**

JB: I think I would just like to broaden that to not just the expat audience with home audiences as well. I could not go to the Luss Highland Games last year, but Angus went to the Luss Games on the Loch Lomond side, which is right next door to us. It is not actually in our patch but just outside our patch.

But I think there is no point being the chief if you do not do something with it. There are about 150 chiefs. Some do absolutely nothing. Some just inherited it and it was thrust upon them and they did not really want it. Others are full time at it. I know the Chief of Clan MacMillan is full time. He has MacMillan's round for coffee in the morning and tea in the afternoon and spends time emailing saying which castles to visit and where to stay. It has become his life.

I know his son Arthur, who is my age. Arthur, like me, has got a career, a sport, a family. And he is looking at this in absolute dread and thinking, I cannot do this full time.

And he said to me, "I'm not going to do it full time." But he will probably do something towards it. And they have a little museum, which we do not yet have but might do.

So, he is the extreme of a full time chief to others who do nothing. I've sort of put three weeks a year in my head as a target and that means probably going to the United States most years. Travelling 'Downunder' every few years and Canada has got to be on the list soon.

**Historically, the concept of a Clan chief has changed greatly. What do you feel is the role of a 21<sup>st</sup> century clan chief?**

JB: Good question. Lots of people ask that one and there is no hard and fast template. We certainly do not lead our clans to war, nor can we raise taxes, unfortunately. I think it is providing something important to the Scottish diaspora. You do not have a lot of history, you have not got castles, you have not got battlefields. So, I think a lot of people hanker after that. And in the absence of that, a clan chief is a point of contact and a link to that history you have not got in a way. So, I think it is moderately important to chiefs to travel and it certainly is something I intend to do now.

**Clan groups, including general Scottish clubs and societies, have been hit with a falling decline in numbers across the world. What are your hopes to increase membership and bring Clan life to a younger audience? And if any of our readers are Buchanan's and have not joined their local chapter, what is your message to them?**

JB: At the moment it seems to be mostly people who have retired, and they have got the time to explore their roots. I think you probably find for every person who

explores their roots, and bearing in mind the internet has hugely advanced that whole process, you probably find the immediate next generation are probably already enthused. But if you do not top it up, it is not going to pass on down to grandchildren. I am new to this game, so I am meeting people and learning an awful lot about it as I go. I think my youngsters are putting together a Facebook page and things like that, and there has been a certain amount of internet traffic, with things like Instagram and I think it is great.

Who knows why people get into it? There was a Buchanan young lassie at New Hampshire Highland Games, and she was into the pipe band and that is how she got into discovering her clan. So, anyone can join us or their own Clan at any age, from anywhere in the world.

**For more details on the Clan Buchanan see: [www.theclanbuchanan.com](http://www.theclanbuchanan.com)**



Clan Chiefs Buchanan and Maclaren and The Lady Buchanan. Photo: Malcolm & Judy Buchanan.

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# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

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

1 - Battle of Largs - Scots defeated the Vikings who were attempting to invade. **1263**

1 - Contract to construct the North Bridge, Edinburgh, signed. **1763**

2 - Birth of Sir William Ramsay, Scottish chemist who discovered helium, xenon, neon, argon, radon and krypton. **1852**

2 - Death of Sir Thomas Lipton, grocer, tea merchant and contestant for the Americas Cup. **1931**



2 - The new paddle steamer *Waverley* was launched from A. & J. Inglis's yard on the Clyde. After providing services on the Firth of Clyde she has been preserved and still takes passengers "doon the watter" as the oldest sea-going paddle steamer in the world. **1947**

3 - Treaty of Berwick, freeing David II from imprisonment by the English. **1357**

3 - Last Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh before the Union with Westminster. **1706**

4 - Boys' Brigade founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith. The first uniformed youth organisation in the world, from one small company of 35 boys it has grown into a worldwide organisation with companies in over 60 countries. **1883**



5 - The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall opens in Sauchiehall Street. **1990**

5 - Balloon flight by Italian aeronaut Vincenzo Lunardi from Heriot's School, Edinburgh to Ceres in Fife. **1785**

5 - The birth of Jock Stein, famous Scottish football manager. Stein was manager of Celtic between 1965 and 1978, during which time it was one of the most successful clubs in Europe, and in 1967 became the first British club to win the European Cup. **1922**

6 - Scot Ebenezer Henderson formed the first Congregational church in Sweden. He spent many years travelling throughout Scandinavia and Russia, giving out bibles translated into local languages. **1811**

7 - Birth of Charles McLaren, one of the founders of the *Scotsman* newspaper. **1782**

8 - Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the first savings bank, born in the Manse at Lochrutton. **1774**

9 - King James IV ratified the Charter incorporating the Surgeons and Barbers. **1506**

9 - Death of Lord Home of the Hirsel, also known as Sir Alec Douglas-Home, formerly Foreign Secretary and UK Prime Minister. **1995**



9 - Backwater Reservoir opened to supply the Dundee area. **1969**

10 - Writer and geologist Hugh Miller born on the Black Isle, Cromarty. **1802**

10 - Jock Stein, Scottish football manager, collapsed and died. He suffered a massive heart attack after watching Scotland draw 1-1 with Wales in a World cup qualifying match in Cardiff. As well as managing the national team, from 1965-78 he was Celtic's most famous manager, seeing them win the European Cup in 1967. **1985**

11 - Letter from Wallace and Moray to the mayors of Lubeck and Hamburg saying that "The Kingdom of Scotland has, by God's Grace, recovered by battle from the power of the English". The Lubeck Letter was thought to have been destroyed during World War Two, but was found in a Lubeck Museum and is now on permanent loan to the Museum of Scotland. **1297**

11 - Ship *Great Michael* launched for King James IV. **1511**

11 - The British fleet, under the command of Admiral Adam Duncan (born in Forfar in 1731), defeated the Dutch off the village of Camperdown, Holland. **1797**

11 - Scotland's first First Minister Donald Dewar died suddenly at 63 after a fall on the steps of his official residence in Edinburgh. He was the first person to hold the position of First Minister following the establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. **2000**

12 - Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour Prime Minister of UK, born in Lossiemouth. **1866**

12 - The birth of Magnus Magnusson, writer and broadcaster. Born in Iceland, Magnus moved to Scotland when only a baby. He made a career in journalism, finally achieving the post of Assistant Editor with *The Scotsman*. Magnusson died on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2007. **1929**

13 - Battle of Aberdeen, James Graham, 1st Marquess of Montrose, sacked the city. **1644**

13 - Birth of Allan Ramsay, painter and son of Allan Ramsay the poet. **1713**

14 - Second marriage of King Alexander III (to Yolanda de Dreux). **1285**

14 - Edward Bruce, brother of Robert the Bruce, killed in a battle near Dundalk, Ireland. **1318**

14 - Birth at St James' Palace, London of King James VII, second son of King Charles I and brother of King Charles II. **1633**

14 - The 50 pence decimal coin was first issued, replacing the ten shilling note. **1969**

14 - Introduction of plastic shopping bags charges in Scotland. The number of plastic bags handed out in stores was slashed by 80% - the equivalent of 650 million carriers - in the first year of Scotland's 5p charge. **2014**

15 - Birth of poet Allan Ramsay, father of Allan Ramsay the painter. **1686**



15 - Edinburgh's Balmoral Hotel opened its doors for the first time. The hotel was originally known as the North British. Acclaimed as one of the great railway hotels, it originally boasted 300 bedrooms and 52 bathrooms. It was later renamed The Balmoral - which means "majestic dwelling" in Gaelic. **1902**

15 - Poet William Souter died in Perth. **1943**

15 - HMS *Hawke* was shot and sunk off the coast of Aberdeen by a German submarine. Launched in 1891 the ship was the sixth British warship to be named *Hawke*. 524 officers and men died, including the ship's captain, Hugh Williams, with only 70 survivors. **1914**

16 - King James II born. **1430**

16 - Poet Robert Fergusson died. **1774**



16 - Bridge to the Isle of Skye opened. Built as a private finance initiative, the bridge initially had the highest tolls in Europe which led to a decade of non-payment protests. **1995**

17 - Battle of Neville's Cross during which King David II was captured by the English. **1346**

17 - James "Paraffin" Young obtained a patent for the extraction of paraffin from shale, starting the chemical industry in West Lothian. **1850**

18 - Aberdeen-born Denis Law became the youngest footballer to play for Scotland. At the time playing for Huddersfield Town, he was 18 years and 7 months old when he played against Wales at Cardiff. Scotland won 3-0. He has recently been nominated Scotland's best player of the last 50 years by the SFA. **1958**

18 - The death of Margaret Tudor, English princess, sister of Henry VIII, wife of James IV, and mother of James V. It was through Margaret, a paternal great-grandmother (through Henry, Lord Darnley), and a maternal great-grandmother (through Mary, Queen of Scots), that James VI based his claim to the throne of England following the death of Queen Elizabeth I. **1541**

19 - The first public-hire sedan chairs became available in Edinburgh. A sedan was an enclosed chair for one person, carried on poles by two men. They reached the height of their popularity in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when there were as many as 180 sedans for public hire in Edinburgh. **1687**

20 - Explosion at Clarkston Toll shopping centre, killing 12. **1971**

20 - Introduction of a minimum charge of 5p for single-use carrier bags in Scotland. **2014**

21 - Last tram car ran in Dundee. **1956**



21 - The Queen officially opened the Burrell Collection in Glasgow's Pollok Country Park. The museum's collection had been donated to the city nearly 40 years earlier by the shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. The Burrell Collection is now closed for refurbishment and will reopen in 2021 after a multi-million pound redevelopment is complete. **1983**

22 - Foundation stones of main Post Office and National Museum of Scotland laid by Prince Albert in his last public engagement before his death. **1861**

23 - Treaty between King John Balliol of Scotland and King Philippe IV of France which promised mutual help against the English - the start of the "Auld Alliance". The Alliance, which was described in 1942 by Charles de Gaulle as 'the oldest alliance in the world' promised mutual help against the English, asserting that should either Scotland or France be invaded by England, the other country would invade English territory. **1295**

23 - Death of John Boyd Dunlop who re-invented the pneumatic tyre from the design of Robert W Thomson. **1921**

24 - Artist David Roberts born in Edinburgh. He died on 25 November 1864 whilst working on a painting at St Pauls Cathedral. **1796**

25 - Elvis Presley touched down at Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, his only visit to Scotland. This was also the only time "The King" set foot on British soil. **1960**

26 - George III crowned, beginning a 60 year reign, one of the longest in British history. **1760**

26 - Following the death of Donald Dewar, Henry McLeish is selected to be First Minister of Scotland by the Scottish Parliament, and is officially appointed by The Queen. **2000**

26 - Poet Sorley MacLean born on the island of Raasay. Sorley MacLean was the greatest Gaelic poet of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He died in 1996. **1911**



27 - William Smith, founder of the Boys' Brigade, born. **1854**

28 - Birth of Robert Liston in Linlithgow who was to carry out the first operation in Britain with the aid of an anaesthetic. **1794**

28 - Dr Henry Faulds, a Scots medical missionary working in Japan, published a letter in "Nature" which gave the first evidence that fingerprints could be used as proof of guilt or innocence in legal cases. **1880**

28 - Journalist and novelist Cliff Hanley (*Dancing in the Streets*) born in Glasgow. **1922**

29 - James Boswell, biographer of Dr Johnston, born at Blair's Land, Parliament Square, Edinburgh. **1740**

30 - Caledonian Canal opened. The Caledonian Canal links the west of Scotland to the East, and makes it possible to navigate a canal boat journey coast to coast right through Scotland's Great Glen, between Fort William and Inverness. It is scenically spectacular along its whole length, surrounded as it is by Scotland's highest mountains and most beautiful scenery. **1822**

30 - First moving image on a television screen when John Logie Baird transmitted the image of a 15-year-old office boy in his London workshop. **1925**

30 - Glasgow born Scottish aviator Scottish aviator Jim Mollison died. Mollison became the RAF's youngest serving officer, the first person to fly solo east to west across the Atlantic and flew from Scotland to Australia in 8 days, 19 hours and 28 minutes. **1959**

31 - Pneumatic bicycle tyres were patented by inventor John Boyd Dunlop from Ayrshire. **1888**



31 - Hampden Park Stadium opened in Glasgow as the home of Queen's Park Football Club. The national stadium of Scotland bears the name of an English politician John Hampden and is actually the third venue to be called Hampden Park in Glasgow. **1903**

# KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again, and hopes even if only a few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.



## The Bogie Man

*Polly in the kitchen,  
Da'in a wee bit stitchin',  
Alang comes a bogie man,  
And oot comes she.*

All Glasgow children knew about the bogie man and he was dreaded by everyone. All through the generations there has been a 'bogie man' often a real person, a poor unfortunate and ugly person who came to serve the purpose of mothers who wanted to quieten their children. In the late 1700's in Scotland it was Robert Dreghorn.

Robert was particularly wealthy but was so ugly that he was nicknamed 'Bob Dragon'. Apparently that was no hindrance to Bob who still believed that he was God's gift to women and followed them around, which in modern terms meant stalking them, only to ogle any of the good-looking women who took his fancy.

### A creature of the night

My older sister talks of 'Sandshoe Sannie' a person who was said to quietly haunt the backstreets of Govan during the wartime blackout and the thought of him could cause the hair on the back of people's

necks to prickle in response. But Pollok's 'Bogie Man' was simply a creature of the night, the one that would 'get you' if he could, whoever you were, wherever you went. His was the shadow that fell across the walls of the shops when I returned home from the Cub Scouts late at night, and it was his breath that caught the skip of my Cub Scout cap and nearly took it off my head. His was the ill-defined and vague slithering shape that crept behind people's privet hedges. His was the spectre that emerged suddenly from the fog on a winter's night from the spare ground on Devol Crescent and who at any moment could make the bulb in a street lamp decide to go out and bring total darkness.

### All Glasgow children knew about the bogie man and he was dreaded by everyone.

His was the silhouette on my bedroom wall that crept across, to appear and disappear with the movement of the curtain as a faint light from a street lamp fell upon the floral pattern of the wallpaper. His were the mysterious footsteps that whispered across the bridge in Housilwood Park on a black night and the odd-shaped ones that lay pressed on the winter snow. His was the strange voice and foul-smelling breath that was carried on the howling wind among the dead dry

leaves of winter. He caused the creaking of floorboards and the scraping noises in your wardrobe; and he would slit your throat, drink your blood and eat your ears off as soon as look at you.

### The worst thing imaginable

You never, ever saw Glasgow's 'Bogie Man' and you didn't know anything about what he might look like, because he could morph with ease to take on the form of the worst thing imaginable. Most of the time he had no face or form and there was probably nothing much human about him at all. He might have been green and slimy like algae from a pond, or dry and withered like a walnut for all we knew, and there was no real protection against him. All you could do was to keep a sharp eye out for him, run as fast as you could, ring the doorbell quickly and hope that your mum or dad would open the door, quick-smart.

Once in bed the only protection you had from him was to make sure every single part of you was covered with blankets, except your head of course. You still had to breathe. Although the 'Bogie Man' was likely to grab your foot or your hands, if these were outside the bed covers; strangely enough your head was safe and you could eventually go to sleep with a bit of confidence. My childhood vision of Auld Nick was lively and somehow familiar compared with my vision of corruption, death and horror conjured up by a Glasgow Bogie Man. He could be anywhere and at anytime waiting 'To Get You'.

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Declaration of Arbroath  
1320

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



# Inverness Castle to be transformed into 'gateway' for Highland tourism

The project to redevelop Inverness Castle is ready to move onto the next stage, The Highland Council has announced. The news comes following the local authority's purchase of the South Tower of the building, meaning that the entire castle is now under the ownership of The Highland Council.

Supported by a £15 million grant through the Scottish Government's City Region Deal, the council said that it will look to redevelop the castle into an attraction that will act as a 'gateway' for Highland tourism – contributing to the 'reinvigoration' of tourism across the constituency and providing 'much needed' investment for the industry as it recovers from the effects of Covid-19. The council said that it expects the entire project to take up to four years to complete. The castle recently opened The Castle Viewpoint visitor attraction which offers fabulous 360 degree views of the Highland Capital and the surrounding scenery.

Provost of Inverness, councillor Helen Carmichael, said, "The Inverness Castle project is key for the regeneration of the tourism economy across the Highland region. I am delighted that the acquisition of the South Tower has now been completed, marking the next step in the transformation of this iconic building. With the impact of the pandemic being felt throughout our area, it is more important than ever that we create this 'must-see' attraction that will draw visitors to the Highlands in years to come."

Sheriff Principal Pyle, sheriffdom of Grampian, Highland and Islands, said, "Inverness Castle was specifically built as a Sheriff courthouse and county hall and has served justice and the people of Inverness well for over 180 years. I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has worked in this building, supporting its work and its history over the years. As that chapter closes, I am pleased that the Castle will continue to serve Inverness and its community in this new role."

The Castle project will be a gateway for Highland tourism and is a vital part of the regeneration of Inverness city centre. The project will support economic growth in the city and throughout the Highland area, creating a sustainable, viable and "must-see" attraction that will celebrate the spirit of the Highlands.

## Bonnie Prince Charlie cane sells in Edinburgh



An important Relic of the Jacobite cause has sold for £16,250 in Edinburgh at the Scottish Works of Art auction. The cane has an inlaid steel head with compressed gold inlaid pommel, with a British crown above the initials "CE". A history of portraiture illustrates the Prince as a young, fashionable, educated and confident man. With much of his life spent in Europe in the presence of many Royal courts, he was keen to portray an image of the upmost grandeur at all times. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was de rigueur to own a fine walking cane; a reflection of one's societal status, wealth and artistic interests. The Prince is thought to have gifted the cane to a French Noble family who presented it in 1909 to racehorse owner and cane aficionado Alfred William Cox. Rome-born Charles was an exiled Jacobite who tried to claim the British throne. But at the Battle of Culloden in April 1746 his forces were overrun and he was hunted as a fugitive until he escaped to France five months later.

## Ancient human remains uncovered during Jedburgh Ramparts works



Human remains, potentially dating back 200 years, have been uncovered during major repair and refurbishment works on the ramparts wall adjacent to Jedburgh Abbey in the Scottish Borders. The works in Abbey Place will see sections of the historic wall and associated access steps carefully rebuilt and strengthened. This area forms an important part of the town's heritage.

Due to the proximity of the works to the abbey, which is a Scheduled Monument, an archaeologist has been employed onsite throughout the works.

During excavation works some human skeletal remains were discovered and these are being carefully exposed and recorded by the archaeological team before being removed from site for further detailed analysis. Initial indications suggest that the remains are at least 200 years old.

Scottish Borders Council is working closely with Historic Environment Scotland to ensure that the human remains are sensitively excavated, properly investigated and then recorded, with the information gathered used to add to the historic interpretation of the site.

## New flag for Skye unveiled



The Isle of Skye has its first ever official flag after a year-long competition and public vote. The flag brings together elements of the island's Viking and Celtic heritage and depicts a birlinn boat with five oars – one for every area of the island. The blue, yellow, and white flag designed by Skye local Calum Alasdair Munro was recently unveiled at a ceremony in Portree. The search for a flag for Skye began in May 2019 when the Free Press, Highland Council and tourism organisation SkyeConnect petitioned the court of the Lord Lyon, the body responsible for recording and protecting all heraldry, flags and national symbols in Scotland, to create the flag. The had 369 designs submitted, with over 200 of them from local children, while other designs came in from across the globe.

## Golden eagles breed at Highlands rewilding estate for first time in 40 years



A pair of golden eagles has successfully reared a chick in an artificial nest at Trees for Life's flagship Dundreggan rewilding estate in Glenmoriston between Loch Ness and Skye – marking the first known return of the spectacular birds of prey to breed at the Highlands site in 40 years.

Doug Gilbert, Trees for Life's Dundreggan Manager, said: "This is a rewilding success story beyond our wildest dreams. Four decades without golden eagles breeding or establishing themselves in this part of our wild and beautiful Highland glen have been four decades too long."

Golden eagles – regarded by many people as Scotland's national bird – are regularly seen over Dundreggan, but until now there has been no sign of them nesting or setting up a territory.

The golden eagle is the UK's second-largest bird of prey, after the white-tailed eagle. It is native to Britain, but centuries

of persecution saw it driven into extinction in England and Wales by the mid-1800s.

The bird has been making a slow recovery in Scotland – though continues to be threatened by illegal persecution, with annual reports of golden eagles being shot, poisoned or having their nests robbed. The fourth national golden eagle survey, published in 2016, showed that Scotland's population of the birds had increased to 508 pairs, a rise of 15 percent since the previous survey in 2003.

Dundreggan is home to over 4,000 plant and animal species – including some never recorded in the UK before or once feared extinct in Scotland.

## Design contract process for George Square and surrounding Avenues to begin



Glasgow City Council is about to begin the process of inviting submissions for a design tender for Block C of the city centre Avenues programme - funded by the Glasgow City Region City Deal. Block C is an area covering George Square, George Street, Hanover Street, John Street, Miller Street, St Vincent Street, Dundas Street and Dundas Lane in Glasgow city centre. The pre-qualification process has now started, with shortlisted teams to be announced in November, and the publication of the full tender shortly after. It is expected that the approval of a selected design team will go to committee in January / February 2021, with the design team appointed in March 2021. The redesign of George Square will require to take into account Glasgow's hosting of major events in the coming years, such as the UEFA European Championships, COP 26 and the UCI Cycling World Championships, with construction work beginning shortly after the latter in the summer of 2023. Alongside the development of a new design for George Square, Glasgow's principal civic space, the George Square Area Strategy project will include the George Street and St Vincent Street Avenues and a new pedestrian link from Queen Street Station down to the Clyde, passing through the square, Hanover Street and Miller Street.

Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council, said: "The transformation of George Square is already underway and this project will help to redefine it as Glasgow's principal public space and gathering place. It will make active travel and public transport more appealing, improve air quality and the local environment, and make this city neighbourhood not only more resilient and sustainable, but a more attractive place in which to live, work and visit. Selecting a design team for George Square and the surrounding Avenues and streets is an important milestone for the City and a key part of this project. The design can reflect the changes to the area that public engagement has told us what the people of Glasgow want, and ensure that it can take the opportunities - and meet the economic and environmental challenges - ahead of us, including an awareness of our history as a city and our identity."

# 700th anniversary of Pope's reply to Arbroath Declaration marked



The Declaration of Arbroath.

August 28<sup>th</sup> marked 700 years ago since the Pope responded to the Declaration of Arbroath, the document attempting to confirm Scotland's status as an independent sovereign state. A translation of Pope John XXII's reply will be published for the first time in a new book led by an Aberdeen academic which creates a contemporary 'people's history' of the famous 1320 document. To mark the anniversary and the arrival of proofs for the publication, titled *Conquered by No One*, historical reenactors gathered at Arbroath Abbey, where the Declaration is believed to have been formed.

## Robert the Bruce

*Conquered by No One* is a collaboration between more than 50 writers and offers new insights into how the men behind the document – a disparate, at times untrusting and rebellious group of Barons and Earls – were drawn together. Edited by the University of Aberdeen's Neil McLennan, it explores for

the first time the lives and motives of all 39 signatories of the Declaration looking at their conflicted personal, family, land and wider interests north and south of the border.

Their letter was an appeal to the Pope John XXII to lift the excommunication of Robert the Bruce and recognise him as the rightful king of Scotland. Papal historian Dr Roger Collins has provided a fresh translation of the response received, which is dated August 28, 1320 while Dr Marie-Luise Ehrenschtendner, also from the University of Aberdeen, has re-examined the Declaration itself.

Mr McLennan said returning to the original documents was essential when re-evaluating its place in Scotland's history. He said: "The 1320 letter is of no significance unless it is responded to so Roger Collins' new translation is a welcome addition to our understanding of this period. Seeing what the Pope said to the Scottish Barons will intrigue many, even if the language is definitely of the era. It is essentially a call for peace between Scotland and England. Ironically, willing for peace in the west was motivated by continuing crusades in the east. Like international affairs of today, the medieval world was complex and connected."

The declaration itself was originally written in Latin and translated into English in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was not until the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century that it was fully assigned the importance it has today. *Conquered by No One* provides a revised and fresh translation, paying closer attention to the detail of the wording. For this, Dr Ehrenschtendner returned to the original file copy with the seals of each of the Barons, alongside more recent translations.

Mr McLennan added: "The imperfections of antiquarian translations are well noted. We hope this new translation will become a version many return to when quoting this often-used historic document. While the changes Dr Ehrenschtendner has identified are not a radical departure from the most commonly used translations, small changes over time do make a difference to reading of the text - word order, what is capitalised and what is not. These changed over time and altered the overall tone."

## A diplomatic letter

*Conquered by No One* also reveals greater detail than ever before about the complexity of intentions and aspirations behind this carefully crafted document. Contributors, including Lord Charles Bruce - one of the most prominent living descendants of Robert the Bruce who has written a chapter on his forefather, pieced together the biographies of each Baron to reveal their hidden stories.

"It has been called a 'Declaration' in recent times but essentially it was a really a diplomatic letter, a letter espousing democratic ideals and an act of realpolitik perhaps in a complex web of local and geopolitics," Mr McLennan added. "There was turbulence between Scotland and England and indeed within Scotland itself. What is perhaps most striking is that a group of people all agreed to the wording despite being what, as one contributor describes, a 'motley crew' ranging from patriots to turncoats with everything in between. We are in the fortunate position of having an original file copy to return to for fresh translations but the motivation for

keeping a sealed file copy is interesting in its own right. It serves to underline that although these men added their seals to the Declaration of Arbroath, they were far from united. Bruce had kept evidence of the guarantee of their loyalty for good reason.

"Indeed, just a few months later some of those who added their signatures to the document had been tried for their role in treason. Lord David de Brechin, who didn't plot but knew of the plot and never told anyone, was executed and drawn through the streets of Perth. William II de Soules was found guilty, and incarcerated in an act of clemency, only to be found dead later in mysterious circumstances. Roger de Mowbray's end was perhaps the most gruesome. He died in custody before his trial and yet his body was brought before the parliament and made to stand in order to receive judgement and sentencing of being drawn, hung and beheaded! Bruce did however intervene at the end to allow a decent burial, probably to enhance his own reputation after a merciless coup of dissenters. Each nobleman approached the Declaration with very different motivations and viewpoints and 700 years on we have tried to do the same with a reinterpretation led by a broad range of voices drawn from across Scottish life."



# ScotsInUS Podcast

The American-Scottish Foundation produces the ScotsInUS podcast twice a month featuring conversation, music and news from across the Scottish global community. Presented by Jamie McGeechan with American-Scottish Foundation President, Camilla Hellman, MBE.

Recent guests have included: Joni Smith, Scottish Affairs Counsellor to North America for The Scottish Government, renowned genealogist Bruce Durie and Peter Wilson of Great Scot International and The Scottish Grocer.

In October *the Scottish Banner's* Sean Cairney will speak to Jamie McGeechan on the role *the Banner* has played amongst the international Scottish community.

The ScotsInUS Podcast is available from a number of platforms including Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Anchor.

For more information on the American-Scottish Foundation see: [www.americanscottishfoundation.com](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.com)



## Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
1 Paisley	2 Afton
5 Offset	3 Soirees
11 Outfits	4 Erse
12 Ardgour	6 Fiddler
13 Winder	7 Scotch Egg
14 Billy Can	8 Throned
16 Bides	9 Cobweb
18 Peterhead	10 Macintosh
19 Cavaliers	15 Appendage
21 Angus	17 Dividends
23 Red Heads	19 Curdled
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28 Striker	22 Speirs
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# Calling the Clans

Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for full details. Our contacts 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](mailto:djbaird4@gmail.com)

**Regional Directors for Australia**  
David and Patricia Benfell  
Email: [clanbairdsa@gmail.com](mailto:clanbairdsa@gmail.com)  
website: [www.clanbairdsociety.com](http://www.clanbairdsociety.com)

## Clan Cumming Society of the United States

[www.clancumming.us](http://www.clancumming.us)  
[info@clancumming.us](mailto:info@clancumming.us)

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

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

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

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

## Clan Fraser Society of Australia

Invites all Frasers and Fraser sept names to join our clan society.

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

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts  
Ph: (03) 9754 5120 [donchitts@hotmail.com](mailto:donchitts@hotmail.com)  
Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/482236358590288>

## CLAN BELL

Invites membership inquiries from persons named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Various resources available for genealogical research. Quarterly newsletter. Tents hosted at major Scottish games nationwide.

Website: [www.ClanBell.org](http://www.ClanBell.org)  
Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>  
Email: [President@clanbell.org](mailto: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; Dhaj; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.

Applications may be made online: [clandavidsonaus@gmail.com](mailto:clandavidsonaus@gmail.com) or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P., P.O. Box 519 Baukhams Hills NSW 1755 [dhill1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dhill1@bigpond.net.au) 0431 527 662

## CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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

Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.  
<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>  
Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety)  
Email: [ivc@donnachaidh.com](mailto:ivc@donnachaidh.com)

## Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

[www.clangalbraith.org](http://www.clangalbraith.org)

## Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

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

## Clan Donald Australia

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High Commissioner Mr A. Neil Macdonald  
State Commissioners  
NSW Mr John Currie  
Qld Mr A. Neil Macdonald  
SA Ms Therese McCutcheon  
Vic Mr Norman A Macdonald  
WA Ms Pamela McDonald

[secretary.donaldaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.donaldaustralia@gmail.com)  
**There is no joy without Clan Donald**

## Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

## Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor  
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balchidder,  
24th Chief of Clan Gregor

Great Lakes, New England, Pacific North West, Western U.S. and Southeast Chapters  
[www.clangregor.com](http://www.clangregor.com)

For membership contact Keith MacGregor  
P.O. Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876  
[kmac1@optonline.net](mailto:kmac1@optonline.net)  
Peter Lawrie, Secretary  
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland

## Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

President: Alistair Cameron  
[cameron490@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cameron490@ozemail.com.au)  
Secretary: Terry Cameron  
[secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com)

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

## Clan Donald Queensland

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

## Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty  
Treasurer/Membership Chair  
Email: [elliottcommia@gmail.com](mailto:elliottcommia@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.elliottclan-usa.com](http://www.elliottclan-usa.com)

## Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society  
PO Box 14  
North Hobart TAS 7002  
Email: [clangregoraustalia@gmail.com](mailto:clangregoraustalia@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.clangregor.com](http://www.clangregor.com)  
**"Royal is my Race"**

## THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

For State Branches contact the National Secretary Margaret Vallance  
Email: [libertyv93@gmail.com](mailto:libertyv93@gmail.com)  
[www.clan-campbell.org.au](http://www.clan-campbell.org.au)

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

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

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

## Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

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

## American Clan Gregor Society

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

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Contacting our registrar, Jeanne P. Lehr  
11 Ballas Crt.  
St. Louis, MO 63131-3038  
Phone: 314-432-2842, [registrar@acgsus.org](mailto:registrar@acgsus.org)  
website: [www.acgsus.org](http://www.acgsus.org)

## CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers

Cordially invites all Carruthers and their descendants to join us in preserving our Clan and Family heritage.

Clan Carruthers Society - International  
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[clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com](mailto:clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com)

## CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA  
President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald  
Contact: [secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com)

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE  
Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson  
Contact: [secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com](mailto:secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com)

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

## FORBES

WEB [WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG](http://WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG)  
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CONTACT: [MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG)

## Clan Hamilton Society

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

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

## Clan Hay

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

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

[www.clanhay.com](http://www.clanhay.com)

## INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC.

The OFFICIAL Clan MacFarlane Society  
Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London  
Re-established- 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC

**Loch Sloy! We welcome all descendants of Clan MacFarlane from around the world!**

Michael R. MacFarlane - FSA Scot - President  
Brian J.W. MacFarlane - Vice President  
Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer  
John K. Manchester - Secretary

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.  
PO Box 398 Glenora, CA 91740 USA  
info@macfarlane.org

[MACFARLANE.ORG](http://MACFARLANE.ORG)

## Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

Askey MacAndie MacClure  
Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacWilliam  
Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie  
Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman  
Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie  
Lewis MacCaskey MacRaid Williamson

- 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](mailto: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](http://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 763 765

**Australia:** John L. Macpherson Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +61 409 122 141

**England & Wales:** William Macpherson EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507

**New Zealand:** Tony Macpherson NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +64 274 587 813

**USA:** Robert T. Macpherson UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 360 701 8133

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

## Clan Henderson Society

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

**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](http://www.clanhendersonsociety.com)

## Clan MacInnes Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.

Scott McInnis, Member Services: [scott@macinnes.org](mailto:scott@macinnes.org) or visit [www.macinnes.org](http://www.macinnes.org)

## THE MACLEODS

RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:  
[WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG](http://WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG)

A. L. MACLEOD  
3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B  
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT  
84120-6880

## The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

**Australian Contact:**  
Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: [learn@vsr.com.au](mailto:learn@vsr.com.au)

**NZ Contact:** Sue Tregoweth email: [sue.treg1@gmail.com](mailto:sue.treg1@gmail.com)

## Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

**INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA**  
President & Commissioner:  
Stephen Hope  
[president@clanhope.org](mailto:president@clanhope.org)  
[commissioner@clanhopeaustralia.org](mailto:commissioner@clanhopeaustralia.org)  
[www.clanhopeaustralia.org](http://www.clanhopeaustralia.org)

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
High Commissioner:  
Richard Rex Hope  
[highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org](mailto:highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org)

**Membership Chair:**  
Janet Hope Higton  
[membership@clanhope.org](mailto:membership@clanhope.org)  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)

**CANADA**  
Commissioner:  
Scott Hale  
[commissioner@clanhope.ca](mailto:commissioner@clanhope.ca)  
[www.clanhope.ca](http://www.clanhope.ca)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall>

## Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

Visit our website  
Check out your Tartan and Sept  
[www.clanmackenzie.org.au](http://www.clanmackenzie.org.au)

## Clan Macnachten Association Worldwide

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 McNaught +61 7 3266 2047 [bruce@brucecmnaught.com](mailto:bruce@brucecmnaught.com)

**W. Canada** - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton 250-999-9636 [milescammac@aol.com](mailto:milescammac@aol.com)

**New Zealand** - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtan +64 9 441 4984 [macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz)

**USA** - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton 541-401-2613 [membersec@clanmacnaughton.net](mailto:membersec@clanmacnaughton.net)

[WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET](http://WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET)

## Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

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

[www.macrae.org](http://www.macrae.org)

Need more info? Contact:  
Bruce McRae, President  
303-670-9611  
[brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com](mailto:brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com)

## Clan Irwin Association

Clan Irwin Association Patron  
Alexander Irvine of Drum  
27<sup>th</sup> Baron of Drum & Chief of the Name.  
Contact: Barbara Edelman, Chairman  
65 Colonial Drive, Telford, PA 18969  
215-721-3955 [chairman@clanirwin.org](mailto:chairman@clanirwin.org)

IRWIN • IRVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN  
Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.

[www.clanirwin.org](http://www.clanirwin.org)

## Clan MacLaren Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia (includes New Zealand members)

[www.clanmaclarenau.org](http://www.clanmaclarenau.org)  
[clanmaclarenau@gmail.com](mailto:clanmaclarenau@gmail.com)  
0422 223 161

## Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: **John McNeil**  
21 Coopers Avenue  
Leabrook, South Australia 5068  
Phone: 08 833 33990 Email: [kisimul@chariot.net.au](mailto: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 [rthornmvpdcan@aol.com](mailto:rthornmvpdcan@aol.com) [www.clanmaitlandna.org](http://www.clanmaitlandna.org)

**Australia:** Carole Maitland [carole\\_maitland@yahoo.com.au](mailto:carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au)  
4230 Colac - Lavers Hill Road Weeaprounah. VIC. 3237

**New Zealand:** Judette Maitland [judette@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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](http://www.clanmaitland.org.uk)

## Clan MacAlpine Society

102 Rainbow Drive #48  
Livingston, TX 77399-10020 USA  
Earl Dale McAlpine - President  
Email: [earlmc Alpine@yahoo.com](mailto:earlmc Alpine@yahoo.com)

## Clan MacLaren

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

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

## CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!

website: [ClanMacNeilUSA.us](http://ClanMacNeilUSA.us)  
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram  
[@ClanMacNeilUSA](https://www.facebook.com/ClanMacNeilUSA)

## Clan Munro Association, U.S.A.

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

**COME JOIN US!**  
Web site: [www.Clanmunrousa.org](http://www.Clanmunrousa.org)  
Write: Heather Munro Daniel  
4600 Lloydrownn Road  
Mebane, NC 27302

## Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

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

Email: [info@macdougall.org](mailto:info@macdougall.org) Home page: [www.macdougall.org](http://www.macdougall.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall](https://www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall)

**Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway**

Coil	MacCoul	MacCoul
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyne	
Dole	MacDoile	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougal
Dougal	MacDougall	MacDougald
Dougle	McDougle	MacDougal
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowell	MacDowell	MacDowell
MacCulloch	McLulloch	MacCulligh
MacClintock	MacCulloch	MacCulligh
MacHale	McHoul	McIntock
MacHowell	MacCowan	MacCowan
MacKichan	McGowall	MacNameil
MacLucas	MacLugash	MacLuke

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

## Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.  
Treasurer  
383 Ash Brook Lane  
Sunnyvale, TX  
75182-3250

Email: [treasurer@clanmaclellan.net](mailto:treasurer@clanmaclellan.net)

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

Visit our website: [www.clanmaclellan.net](http://www.clanmaclellan.net)

## Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Contact Ross Nicolson  
10/377 North Rocks Rd.,  
Carlingford NSW 2118  
[www.clanmacnicol.org](http://www.clanmacnicol.org)

## OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America

The only home for all Clan Oliphant in the Americas.

Oliphant - Olyphant - Oliphint  
Olifant - Olifent  
and all descended

[ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com](mailto:ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com)  
[www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org](http://www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.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](mailto:apollockis@comcast.net)



## Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact  
President: Wayne Sinclair 0417 146 174  
Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263  
E: [clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com)  
[www.clansinclairaustralia.com](http://www.clansinclairaustralia.com)

### Scottish Associations and Societies



THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION, INC.

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](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.org)



The American-Scottish Foundation

## 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](mailto:alfredhcooke@gmail.com)



[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)



## Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

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



## The Stewart Society

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

Please inquire: The Secretary  
53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,  
Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 [www.stewartociety.org](http://www.stewartociety.org)



## Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

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

Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor)  
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: [fios@ozgaelic.org](mailto:fios@ozgaelic.org)  
Web: [www.ozgaelic.org](http://www.ozgaelic.org)  
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

## Scottish Gaelic

### 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](mailto:scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com)

## Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

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



## Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.



Paul D Ross, President  
Virg Bumann, VP Membership  
1015 Archer St, San Diego, CA, 92109  
[membership@clanross.org](mailto:membership@clanross.org)  
[info@clanross.org](mailto:info@clanross.org)  
[www.clanross.org](http://www.clanross.org)



## Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

Contact: M Hodgkinson  
212 MacKenzie Street  
Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)  
[william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au](mailto:william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au)  
<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandau>  
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



## Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia  
For further details contact John: 0427 990 754  
Email: [caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com](mailto:caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com)  
[www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com](http://www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com)

## Còisir Ghàidhlig Bhiocòiria

### Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

[www.facebook.com/ScottishGaelicChoirVictoria](http://www.facebook.com/ScottishGaelicChoirVictoria)

Do you live in Melbourne? Are you interested in Gaelic and its music, or do you simply enjoy singing? Why not join us?

#### Rehearsal times:

Thursday 7-9pm during school terms,  
Term 1 2020 beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February  
at The Kildara Centre, rear of  
39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

Contact Raghnaid NicGaraidh  
[rachel.hay@inet.net.au](mailto:rachel.hay@inet.net.au)



## Clan Ross of The United States

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

[www.theclanross.com](http://www.theclanross.com)

[clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com](mailto:clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com)

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



## Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

Email: [Secretary@ClanSutherland.org](mailto:Secretary@ClanSutherland.org)  
Website: [www.ClanSutherland.org](http://www.ClanSutherland.org)



## Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

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

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

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



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](http://www.standrewsociety.com)



## Clan Scott Australia Group

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

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

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

## The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.



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

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

## Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

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

E-mail: [resource\\_centre@scotsofaus.org.au](mailto:resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au)

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/ScotsOfVictoria](https://facebook.com/ScotsOfVictoria)



## Clan Shaw Society

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

Secretary: Mike Shaw  
2403 West Cranford  
Denison, TX 75020



## Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

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

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

[www.clanwardlaw.com](http://www.clanwardlaw.com)  
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

## Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457  
Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

Write or phone for our free brochure.

[www.scottishheritageusa.org](http://www.scottishheritageusa.org)  
email: [shusa457@gmail.com](mailto:shusa457@gmail.com)  
(910) 295-4448

## Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905

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

Affiliated Clans & Societies

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

Chief: Ms Ceilidh McKinna Robertson

President: Mr Douglas Pearce

Secretary: Mrs Jan Macdonald

T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930

E: [secretary@victorianscottishunion.com](mailto:secretary@victorianscottishunion.com)  
[www.victorianscottishunion.com](http://www.victorianscottishunion.com)

# Clan Farquharson – Clan Virtual



By: Pauline Finlay  
Clan Farquharson

Traditionally, each year, in the first full week of August the UK Clan Farquharson Association calls all Farquharsons from across the world to join them at Ballater, Royal Deeside, for a week long Clan Gathering. This Gathering is run in conjunction with Ballater's Victoria Week. This year, Covid 19 restrictions prevented travel and Gatherings to take place within the UK. But still wanting to run this Gathering and realising that the virus has forced people to isolate and restrict their normal Clan physical contacts, the UK Association decided to run a full Virtual Gathering for all Farquharsons, no matter where they lived.

To attempt to run more than 12 events over a one-week period, is something that we believe no other Clan has yet attempted. At the same time, the Ballater's Victoria Week and Highland Games Committee also proposed online activities for the community, including the raising of the Ballater Games Standard at Monaltrie Park by His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay. Although the UK Clan Committee worked closely with the local community

and positioned Braemar Castle's restoration appeal at the centre of their campaign, their approach was clearly all encompassing as they reached out to the international community of members, friends and followers as well as to the confederation of Clans of Clan Chattan and the general public.

## Meet old friends and make new acquaintances

There was a wide range of events covering all ages and interests with many events being freely available to everyone. Highlights included the very moving Cairn Ceremony, a virtual 3 course Black Tie Dinner and Concert, a popular Minecraft Challenge, and a Meet and Greet at the Farquharson Bar in Braemar, where it was possible to move around to different tables to talk to everyone there. The programme also included specially curated films, interviews, virtual tours and theatrical podcasts as well as a Hybrid Whisky Tasting, an Open-Mic Ceilidh, a Virtual Quiz and several other prize competitions. For all who attended, it was a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new acquaintances.

All was organised within just over 2 months with limited resources and delivered with quality, creativity and professionalism. Much of the programme and content can still be viewed on [www.clanvirtual.com](http://www.clanvirtual.com), the site created especially for the event. Clan Farquharson would like to thank our UK Clan Association Committee, especially Jonathan Findlay (President) and IT Guru Scott Farquharson, for their efforts to make this week possible and so special.

# Andrew MacThomas of Finegand celebrates 50 years as the 19th Chief of Clan MacThomas



By: Iain Coombs, Clan MacThomas Society

In 2020 Andrew MacThomas of Finegand celebrates 50 years as the 19<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacThomas. Significant celebrations were planned for a Gathering of Clan Members and guests in August. These included a guided tour of historical clan sites in Scotland and a 4-day Gathering with socialising based in Pitlochry and traditional ceremony at the Clach na Coileach in picturesque Glenshee. Unfortunately, and at great disappointment to many overseas members, the celebrations had to be cancelled because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Looking ahead, it is hoped a Gathering will occur in two years' time to celebrate a significant birthday for Finegand, who has, since succeeding to the Chieftanship in 1970, spent a lot of time and effort in promoting and growing the Clan MacThomas Society. His efforts have included visits to Australia and the United States, making personal contact with his 'flock' in the far-flung parts of the world. In addition, Finegand is also an executive member of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs,

advising authorities on matters relevant to heritage and culture, while trying to promote pride and interest in Scottish history in the U.K.

## Scottish heritage

The Clan MacThomas Society was started by Andrew's father, Patrick, in 1954, thus it was quite a small organisation when he became the 19<sup>th</sup> Chief in 1970. Patrick, with some dedicated helpers, had established his lineage to the point where the Lord Lyon acknowledged him as the 18<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacThomas. Now an international Gathering is held every 3 years with up to 150 people coming from many parts of the world to join in fellowship and celebrate our common heritage.

These occasions were once based on the Spittal of Glenshee Hotel but, since that establishment was burnt down some years ago, we have recently stayed in Pitlochry and travelled by road to Glenshee for our traditional ceremony at the 'Clach'.

Below are the Sept names of Clan MacThomas. If anyone bears one of these names, or is a descendant of someone with a name and are interested in preserving our Scottish heritage while enjoying the fellowship of other Clan members, please get in touch via the following address or through our Clan website:

Combie, McColm, McComas, McComb, McCombe, McCombie, McComie, McComish, MacOmie, Macomish Tam, Thom, Thomas, Thoms, Thomson.

*With the grateful acknowledgement of Mary Grunberg, European secretary of the Clan MacThomas Society: [www.clanmacthomas.org](http://www.clanmacthomas.org)*

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



**Pumpkin risotto-**  
see attached pic

**Ingredients:**

**For the pumpkin risotto:**

570ml/1 pint vegetable or chicken stock  
1 small onion, chopped  
12 fresh sage leaves, chopped finely  
2 tbsp olive oil  
170g/6oz arborio (risotto) rice  
250g/9oz. pumpkin or butternut squash, diced small  
50g/2oz. butter  
salt and freshly ground black pepper

**For the crispy sage:**

12-16 fresh sage leaves  
2 tbsp sunflower oil

**To garnish:**

piece fresh Parmesan, or vegetarian Parmesan-style grating cheese (optional)

**Method:**

Heat the stock until almost boiling and then keep over a very low heat. In a separate heavy-based saucepan fry the onion in the oil over a low heat until soft but not browned. Add the chopped sage and cook for a couple more minutes.

Add the rice and mix well for a few seconds to coat the grains with oil, then pour in one-third of the stock and bring to a gentle simmer. Cook until almost all the stock is absorbed. Add the pumpkin or squash and a little more stock, and continue to simmer gently until the stock is absorbed.

From then on add more stock a little at a time, until the pumpkin is soft and the rice nicely al dente (has a little bite to it). You may not need all the stock, but the texture should be loose and creamy.

When the risotto is almost ready, heat the sunflower oil in a small pan and quickly fry the sage leaves until crispy - it only takes a matter of seconds.

Stir the butter into the risotto, and season well with salt and pepper. Divide into 4 bowls and sprinkle a few crispy sage leaves over each portion. Bring the cheese and a grater to the table for your guests to serve themselves.

**Devilish red cabbage**

**Ingredients:**

1 tbsp. sunflower oil  
1 onion, chopped  
450g/1lb red cabbage, shredded  
225g/8oz cooking apples, peeled, cored and diced  
2.5cm/1in piece fresh root ginger, peeled and grated  
pinch of ground cinnamon or allspice  
150ml/¼pt vegetable stock  
salt and freshly ground black pepper

**Method:**

Heat the oil in a large saucepan. Add the onion, red cabbage and apple and cook gently for 5 minutes. Add the ginger and cinnamon or allspice and the vegetable stock. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer gently for 15-20 minutes until most of the liquid has evaporated and the vegetables are tender. Season to taste and serve.

**Wizard's hat pasties**

**Ingredients:**

1 tbsp. olive oil  
small onion, finely chopped  
250g/9 oz. pumpkin flesh (buy a large wedge and peel, or use leftovers from lantern-making), cut into small cubes of about 1cm  
2 tsp tomato purée  
pinch grated nutmeg  
75ml vegetable stock  
375g/13 oz. pack ready-rolled puff pastry  
egg, beaten  
50g/1.7 oz. cheddar, grated  
2 tbsp. roasted pumpkin seeds (from a packet)

**Method:**

Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan, then add the onion and cook for 5 minutes until softened and lightly golden. Stir in the pumpkin and tomato purée. Season with nutmeg and salt and pepper to taste. Pour in the stock and bring to the boil before turning down to a simmer for 8-10 minutes.

The pumpkin should be just tender and almost all of the liquid evaporated. Spoon into a bowl and set to one side to cool. Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Unroll the pastry and roll it out slightly thinner with a rolling pin. Cut out 8 diamond shapes approximately 10cm wide x 15cm long.

Brush each pastry diamond with beaten egg. Stir the grated cheese into the cooled pumpkin mixture, then divide between the diamonds, placing the mix on the top half of each piece of pastry. Fold the bottom of the diamond over the filling, pressing the edges together firmly to make a well-sealed triangle. Brush all over with egg glaze and scatter over a few pumpkin seeds, in star or moon shapes if you like. Chill for 30 minutes, or overnight, covered with cling film, if you are making ahead. Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden and puffed.

**Pumpkin muffins**



**Ingredients:**

60ml/2fl oz. vegetable oil, plus extra for greasing  
180g/6½oz. self-raising flour  
130g/4½oz. wholemeal flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda  
pinch salt

3 fresh rosemary sprigs, finely chopped  
2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten  
100ml/4fl oz plain yoghurt  
275ml/10fl oz milk  
1 tbsp honey  
240g/8½oz cooked pumpkin, cut into ½cm/¼in cubes  
handful pumpkin seeds

**Method:**

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Oil a 12-hole muffin tin and line with 12 squares of baking paper. Push the squares down into each hole so that the paper sticks up.

Sift the flours, baking powder, and bicarbonate of soda into a large bowl. Stir in the salt and rosemary. (Reserve any wholegrain left in the sieve.)

Meanwhile in another bowl, mix the eggs, yoghurt, milk, honey and vegetable oil until well combined.

Pour the wet ingredients into the dry and fold the ingredients together, but be careful not to over-work the mixture. Stir in most of the pumpkin, reserving a little for the top of the muffins. Spoon the mixture into the muffin cases.

Sprinkle the reserved wholegrain, pumpkin and the pumpkin seeds over the muffins. Bake in the centre of the oven for 20-25 minutes, or until the muffins are well risen and a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.

**Halloween scary cookies**

**Ingredients:**

250g/9oz. unsalted butter, softened  
250g/9oz. golden caster sugar  
2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten  
½ tsp vanilla extract  
500g/1lb 2oz. plain flour  
red and black food colouring (optional)  
1 tsp baking powder  
Halloween-themed cookie cutters  
red, white and black writing icing  
200g/7oz. ready-to-roll fondant icing  
1 tbsp. apricot jam, warmed with 1 tsp. water

**Method:**

Beat together the butter and sugar in a large bowl, preferably using an electric mixer, until the mixture is light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs and vanilla extract. (If the mixture looks a little curdled, add a spoonful of the flour.) If you're using food colouring, add a few drops to the mixture.

Sift together the flour and baking powder in a separate bowl. Stir the flour into the butter mixture and work into a dough using floured hands. Turn onto a floured work surface and knead into a ball (the dough will be quite wet). Divide the dough into two portions, wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge for at least one hour. Preheat the oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper. Roll the dough out to a 0.5cm/¼in thickness on lightly floured work surface. (It's best to roll out one portion of the dough at a time, leaving the remainder in the fridge.) Cut shapes out with the Halloween cutters. Take a few limbs and heads off the gingerbread man for added gore. Place the cookies onto the baking tray, leaving a gap between them in case they spread a little. Bake for 12-15 minutes, leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling. Once cool, let your imagination run wild. Use the red writing icing along



*Things may go "bump in the night" in the kitchen this month and we hope these spooky recipes are enjoyed in the lead up to Halloween.*

Halloween, celebrated on 31<sup>st</sup>

October, is widely assumed to be an American festival but it's actually an ancient Celtic pagan celebration.

The term Halloween comes from All-hallow-even or All Hallows' Eve - the evening before All Hallows' Day, or All Saints' Day. The festival originated as a pagan ritual among the Celts in Ireland and Britain, who regarded 31 October as the last day of summer, November being associated with the death and slaughter of animals that provided meat for winter. In the old Norse religion, sacrifices were made to the elves, and food was blessed and stored for winter. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried Halloween festivities in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

the edges of the missing limbs and heads as blood. For the skeletons and mummies, roll the fondant icing out to a 0.5cm/¼in thickness on a work surface dusted with icing sugar and cut out shapes using the same cutters as the cookies. Brush the cookies with the warmed apricot jam and stick the icing onto the cookies. Decorate with the white and black writing icing.

**Halloween punch for the bairns**

**Ingredients:**

500ml/18fl oz. cranberry juice  
1.5 litres/2½ pints lemonade  
3 limes, juice only  
large handful gummi worms

**Method:**

Pour all of the ingredients into a large glass bowl and mix until well combined. Drape the gummi worms over the edge of the bowl.

**Witchcraft**

**Ingredients:**

25ml/1fl oz black vodka  
1 tbsp lemon juice  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
25ml/1fl oz blackberry liqueur  
25ml/1fl oz fresh apple juice  
To garnish:  
1 lychee, peeled  
½ tsp strawberry jam  
1 blueberry

**Method:**

Place the vodka, lemon juice, vanilla syrup, blackberry liqueur and apple juice into a cocktail shaker filled with ice and shake well. Pour into a cocktail glass.

To garnish, cut a small hole into the lychee. Fill with strawberry jam, then stick the blueberry into the jam to create an 'eyeball'. Float the 'eyeball' in the cocktail and serve.

By: Nick Drainey



# Over the sea to Skye



**October sees the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Skye Bridge opening to great controversy, it had the highest toll per mile in Europe and led to a long running series of protests. This led to local residents managing to overturn a stubborn government and win their campaign to have the toll abolished as Nick Drainey explains.**

Andy Anderson is a criminal. He has been charged under the law more than 100 times, spent time in jail and had his face shown in newspapers and on TV news programmes across the world. But Andy is also a hero, a fighter for justice and a good friend of the policemen who put him in front of the courts.

It was 25 years ago this month that the Skye Bridge opened amid great controversy. A road link had been established to the "Misty Isle" for the first time but at great expense to the taxpayer, and to those driving across, who were faced with a toll which was the most expensive, per mile, in Europe. Enter Andy Anderson, then the owner of a B&B near Uig at the north end of the island. He, like many islanders, was opposed to the crossing charge and was determined to fight it, even if that meant facing up to the British Government, major American banks, and the courts.

After the bridge was first proposed by the Government in the late 1980s it had seemed a good idea to many but as the high cost of the tolls became apparent, opposition began to grow. When the bridge finally opened that resistance had grown into a full-blown protest and the campaign group Skye and Kyle Against Tolls (SKAT) had started what would become a nine-year battle to have the charges abolished.

Andy was the secretary and had helped organise a protest which would see drivers refuse to pay when the bridge opened at midnight on 16 October 1995. Andy said: "We decided to go down at midnight and be there as soon as the bridge opened, and we wouldn't pay." SKAT expected around a

dozen people to be there in no more than 10 cars, but the numbers were three times that, despite the weather being awful. Andy continued "A whole load of people who had never been at the meetings decided they were going to do it as well. It wasn't your usual rent-a-mob, this group were elderly, young, business people, a real mix and you knew straight away this was different. The wind was howling, and they kept us there for hours, they wouldn't let us through. The police wanted us to go away."

### Lunatics and luddites

Just before dawn they were let through, but only after being charged – the first of many times the protestors would be at odds with the law. But Andy and his fellow campaigners were in no doubt they had to continue the fight. Andy says: "We were left with little option – either we had to shut up and do what we were told, or we took them on. That was quite a daunting prospect; a small community taking on the Government, but we did. Once we were in the battle there was no way out. As soon as I started getting charges against me, which I was refusing to pay, I realised my house and property was in danger. The minute we tried to draw back they would come after us."

Protests took many forms; as well as refusing to pay campaigners would hand over bags of pennies at the tollbooth, which led to huge tailbacks as the cashiers counted them up (the charge was £5.70, one-way, for a car). Another tactic was to drive over flocks of sheep – something which was legal. Andy said: "There was an ex-Army officer who had a croft and he drove his sheep over. We realised we could block the bridge with the sheep and technically it was a way of putting two fingers up."

On many occasions they tried to invoke the spirit of the law which says it can be broken with a 'reasonable excuse'. Even though they had little chance of succeeding in court, they knew the publicity they would receive would help their cause. Andy, a former miner and trade union official, who has a degree

from Oxford University, once referred to a Government minister who had called the protestors 'lunatics and luddites'. Andy continues: "The police sergeant came down and asked what our reason for not paying was. I said: 'If you disabled you are not required to pay, and I am a lunatic. A minister of the Crown said so and ministers don't tell lies. The sergeant said I should see my doctor. I said: 'I can't do that, he's in the car behind and he's a lunatic too.'" Again, Andy was charged.

That interaction with the officers of the law was typically friendly, in part because everyone knew each other as friends and neighbours. Andy says: "We had a perfectly good relationship with the police – they used to ring us up to say we were going to get arrested. I once said that I was going down the pub for choir practice as I was in a Gaelic choir and they said 'OK, give us a ring when you're ready'."

### Abolish the tariff

However, the threat of imprisonment was ever present for campaigners who refused to pay – it had been made a criminal offence by the Government, rather than a civil one. Because of that, Andy thought he was better placed than some others to risk going to jail because he was semi-retired which meant he no longer had a

young family to support unlike younger campaigners who would have risked losing their job if they received a criminal conviction. "We realised the only people who could take it on were people like myself, no family commitments and no career to worry about. So, I decided to go for the jail, to up the ante because every time we did that it became a lot more political and we got a lot more support."

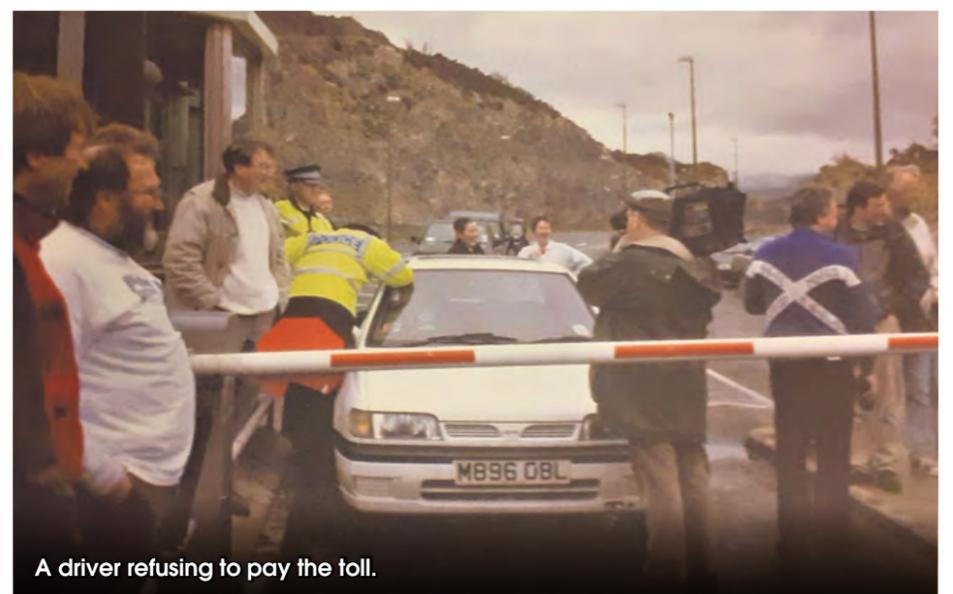
In 2001, Andy was placed in Inverness Jail for 14 days for refusing to agree to return to court after being charged with refusal to pay. He said: "Within two days the balloon had gone up – there was international press and people in Australia and the United States asking about it - that interest put them on the spot." When he was brought back to court, he was not given a prison sentence but received an admonishment which under Scots law meant he was free to go but with a warning and conviction. He said: "They wanted rid of the case. If the media had heard I was going back to prison, it would have exploded."

After that ruling, Andy believes the authorities decided they could no longer threaten protestors with jail if they refused to pay the toll and victory in their fight to abolish the tariff was in sight.

After much political argument, the tolls were finally lifted in December 2004. Andy believes there were a number of reasons for their victory, including the gradual weakening of the Government's political position, with the help of national and international media coverage and the support of leading politicians of the day such as Liberal Democrat John Farquhar Munro. But Andy also looks back at the efforts of the residents of Skye and Kyle who had faced up to authority and held firm, Andy said: "The community stuck together in a way that we ended up with more criminals per hundred of the population than anywhere in the world ... but we won."



Bridge protesters.



A driver refusing to pay the toll.

# Hit the road with the sounds of Scotland

*New Spotify playlist celebrates Scotland's vibrant music & cultural scene and inspires future travellers to visit Scotland when the time is right.*



Inverary sunset.



The open road.



The Tay Bridge.

**2020** had been earmarked as the Year of Scotland in Australia (YOSA) to showcase Scotland's finest traditional, Gaelic, Celtic, and folk musicians to audiences around the country. With many of the planned events cancelled due to COVID, and in addition to concerts streamed on the YOSA Facebook page, YOSA has curated a series of Scottish playlists so the #SoundsofScotland can still be enjoyed, the first of which - the YOSA Scottish Road Trip playlist - launched last month.

## Explore Scotland musically

With road trips increasing in popularity, no matter where you live you can now explore Scotland musically while driving



Meet the locals.

locally, and dreaming of your next visit to bonny Scotland. With genres ranging from traditional highland music, to the grungy, underground sounds of Glasgow and Edinburgh, listeners of the Scottish Road Trip playlist will enjoy the best beats and toe tapping tunes, and be inspired to take on a Scottish journey cruising the coast to the heavenly highlands when the time is right.

The YOSA Scottish Road Trip playlist has been curated to reflect the links between the picturesque scenery seen on well-travelled road trips and local music from those regions. The playlist's combination of traditional and modern music represents a country steeped in history that isn't afraid of change. The Gaelic tracks serve as a reflection of Scottish island culture and landscapes, while for those with more eclectic tastes, the chill tracks feature artists showcasing Scotland's rich musical history.

## Scotland's vibrant music scene

Scotland is home to some of the world's most breathtaking road trips that extend far beyond well-known routes such as the popular Highlands North Coast 500. The Argyll Coastal Route gives visitors the opportunity to explore medieval castles, scenic islands, and some of the nation's finest seafood delights.

The Fife Coastal Route takes in a unique combination of Instagramable fishing villages, sandy beaches and luscious golf courses, while the Borders Historic Route takes on charming villages, lush countryside and the sights of Edinburgh.

Whilst people aren't able to visit Scotland yet, the *Sounds of Scotland* series, starting with the YOSA Scottish Road Trip playlist, should keep them grooving to Scotland's vibrant music scene until they can travel internationally again, hopefully sooner rather than later.

**For updated information on The Year of Scotland in Australia 2020, visit: [www.yearofscotlandaustralia2020.com](http://www.yearofscotlandaustralia2020.com)**

## About Scotland's top road trip routes and the music along the way

### North Coast 500

Scenic back roads, meandering country tracks, and beautiful bends along some of Scotland's finest coast are just a few things you can expect along the North Coast 500, known as 'Scotland's Route 66'. The 500 mile round trip leaves Inverness and follows the coastline, covering some of the most beautiful roads in the UK, from Ullapool to Lochinver, Cape Wrath and the rugged Caithness coast before turning south towards Dunrobin Castle, and the cathedral town of Dornoch.

At the end of your journey stop in Hootananny's, or Hoots as it's commonly known by locals. This award-winning live music venue hosts a popular folk session every Sunday to Thursday night, and lively folk bands perform here every weekend, entertaining both locals and visitors alike.

### Argyll Coastal Route

If you're a fan of seafood, sea air and stunning sunsets then the Argyll Coastal Route will be the drive of your life. Set off from the banks of Loch Lomond to explore Scotland's west coast and travel the scenic route to Fort William. Discover the excellent produce of Loch Fyne, the fascinating history of the Kingdom of Dalriada at Kilmartin and the astonishingly diverse landscapes - from seashores to mountain tops.

The Argyll Coastal Route takes in Glen Fyne, where the team at Fyne Ales brewery hosts FyneFest, an annual three-day party celebrating the best food, drink and music from Scotland. The festival's line-up offers a diverse mix of musical styles and genres - from easy-going tunes for chilled-out afternoons to main stage acts that get the party started and keep going late into the night.

### Fife Coastal Route

Enjoy views of the impressive Forth bridges as you drive along sparkling coastline on the Fife Coastal Route. You'll pass rolling farmland, picturesque seaside towns and beautiful beaches. With the Kincardine Bridge and the Tay Bridge at either end, the Fife Coastal Route traces a meandering path along the glittering Firth of Forth coastline, passing places such as the Royal Burgh of Culross, the beautiful fishing towns in the East Neuk, and historic St Andrews.

The county of Fife has thriving music scene. Check out PJ Molloys, a live music venue in Dunfermline. With everything from local covers bands to national touring acts, each night offers a completely different musical experience in the venue - indie, pop, electro, soul or rock'n'roll - there's something for everyone.

### Borders Historic Route

The only tourist route that begins outside Scotland, the Borders Historic Route picks up near Carlisle before passing into the lush countryside of the Scottish Borders. Follow the route to Edinburgh and explore the charming villages you pass before reaching Scotland's historic capital city.

Edinburgh is a city with a thriving live music scene. Whether you favour classical recitals, lo-fi folk performances, improv jazz, floor-filling electronica, anthemic pop and rock, or classical, Edinburgh has a live music venue for everyone. One of the grandest historic concert halls Edinburgh, Usher Hall regularly hosts concerts and recitals by Royal Scottish National Orchestra this and other ensembles.